

# Times .10

Your Magazine of Choice

February 2001, Vol. 8 Number 5

Honesty  
in  
Politics?

8 & 9

Identity

Pg's 6, 14, 40

Health

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# Times.10

Your Magazine of Choice

Vol. 8 Number 5  
February 2001  
Edmonton, Alberta

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# A Healthy Vision of a Community that Plays together...





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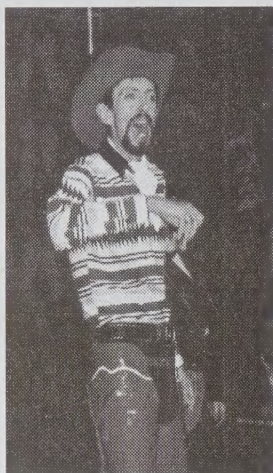
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# Rhoda's New Groove

By Imperial Crown Prince 25 Rob

Many moons ago, a young man by the name of Ron Byers walked into the first meeting of the Imperial Sovereign



Court of the Wild Rose. The International Court System was new at the time, and Edmonton was the second city in Canada to start such an organization. For Ron, it seemed

like something that would be fun, creating great events for partying, for developing friendships, and for putting on some truly fantastic drag shows.

That began Ron's involvement with the Court. During those first early years, the Court was just about having a blast.

Ron contributed where he could, finding a natural niche in MCing Edmonton's balls each August. At the time, he had very little idea of who this Daryl was, a fresh young face at Flashback, but one of hundreds. In 1975, he had no idea that twenty-five years later, he would be reigning as Emperor with this Daryl beside him as Empress. Even then, though, he knew that he'd found in the Court something that would forever alter the way he saw his life.



Becoming involved with the ICS in the 70s was all about the drag. It was about the ceremony and the titles, the crowns and the glamour. That was true not only in Edmonton, but also everywhere. In the 80s, this all changed. With the onset of AIDS, organizations needed money to research treatments, care for the afflicted, and educate everyone about safer sex. It was perhaps a natural leap for the Queens of the Court to evolve from simply putting on shows to raising money through those shows.

Through the 80s and into the 90s, Ron remained a staple in the Court. Before 2000, he only ran for Emperor once, a task he undertook at the request of a dear friend, Mary Mess. Although he lost that title to the person who was eventually to reign by his side, Ron remained a constant of the Wild Rose. He supported it with his knowledge, his ideas, his experiences with many other community groups, all the personal resources he could muster to donate to an organization he truly believes in. Through those years, as friends stepped up, stepped down, moved on, moved back, Ron MCed at every Ball, earning his title as Master of Ceremonies Ultima.

When Mr. Vera asked Ron three years ago to run as her Emperor, Ron agreed for many reasons. Ron has seen Mr. Vera evolve from a skinny boy just coming out to the clubs in the 70s into a strong and vibrant Queen that he is honored and privileged to reign beside. Also, the proposed year for their

campaign marked two important milestones. This year, being the Jubilee of the Court, is truly a cause to celebrate. The ISCWR is the single longest operating gay organization in the Prairies, and

the fact that it has endured drama, trauma, and the passing of the years and still flourishes, is something Ron takes pride in. Also, this year marks a personal milestone for Ron. Involved since day one, this will be the 25th Edmonton ball



that Ron has MCed at. In spite of it being his own step-down, rest assured he will find some way to fulfill all his duties as Emperor while still capturing an anniversary that means so much to him.

If you ever sit down with Ron and talk about the Court, you can't help but be swept up by the passion he feels for it. In twenty-five years, the most memorable experience for him was his crowning, 2:30 in morning, surrounded by people he cared about and respected, who respected and cared about him in return. This is something he truly believes in and, as Emperor, is dedicated to carrying out the mission of the ISCWR. As it did in the early 80s, this mission seems to be evolving again in the early 00s.

There are far more ways to get

involved in the Court than performing. Over the years, the Court has become an organization adept at organizing events, raising money for charities, and providing promotion and leadership in the community. As the current board and upper house try to define what the court's mission is or could be, it becomes clear that it needs the involvement of people skilled at and interested in event production and promotion, costume design, corporate sponsorship, and

volunteer coordination....

The list goes on.

Ron wants to end his year as Emperor with Court a bit stronger, a bit more

vibrant. He wants to see more people involved because he realizes all the various ways they can be. He wants to see some of the baggage from the past forgotten, enabling the Court to renew a spirit that has sustained them through twenty five years of community participation. He wants the Court to take full advantage of the fact that it is comprised of a diverse group of people with so many individual talents and so much personal energy. Perhaps most of all, he wants not only the Court, but everyone, to realize that "the Court has always been and will forever be about straight, gay, lesbian and transgender individuals volunteering their time, energy and commitment to an organization that, for 'that time in their life' gave them some personal rewards in the friendships and achievements that the Court offered. We have endured many blue skies and cloudy days because of the selfless commitment of volunteers. And with this year proclaimed by the UN as International Year of the Volunteer, now more than ever we need to recognize and acknowledge this one very basic driving force."



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# Why some Politicians are Frauds?

*By Dennis Cambly  
Managing Editor*

One of the lessons we should have learned from the most recent Federal Election in Canada, and in the United States, was a simple one called Respect. This is when we "show consideration for, and avoid intruding upon or interfering with, the will of others". This goes for all forms of government in all countries, but in particular I will speak of Canada. Herein, I am speaking to the lack of respect shown to the voters in our civic elected councilors at Edmonton City Council. They have shown a total disregard for a very important part of what makes up a Free and Democratic Society.

In fact, with very little homework, it can be shown that they border on the ignorance of Marx and Engels in their writing of the Communist Manifesto. It says the following in the Manifesto: "In this sense, the theory of the Communists may be summed up in the single sentence: Abolition of private property. We Communists have been reproached with the desire of abolishing the

right of personally acquiring property as the fruit of a man's own labor, which property is alleged to be the groundwork of all personal freedom, activity and independence."

We are one step away from some members of our City Council taking away our right to work and build a business and establish our freedom that we are granted by living in what was a Democracy. In all their arrogant eagerness to tell us what we can and cannot do in our places of business, they are rapidly abolishing our rights to own the very businesses we have built. Some



City Councilors have moved one more step to simply abolishing our right to even own a business or to keep our personal freedoms. One Councilor in this issue blames gay men for taking a stand on an issue that did not work in Toronto or Vancouver. He should do his homework, but that is unlikely, since he is acting out the part that we thought was given to Stockwell Day.

Never in a million years did I dream that the use of "**selective discrimination**" would ever be used by anyone other than the Reform Alliance Party. Stockwell Day was defeated because he did not listen to the people and the same will go for those members of this City Council who are forcing the abolition of the right to run a private business in an independent manner.

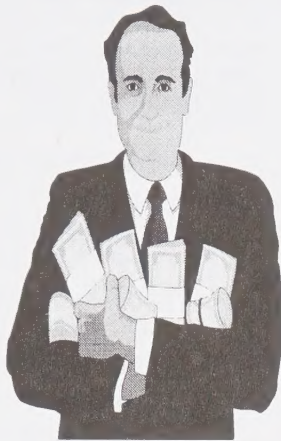
It is this deep lack of respect of the individual that is the one haunting problem with all levels of government in Canada. They are constantly in a struggle to satisfy the alterego within while attempting to grapple with more power over the individual. Each person is in a constant struggle to find the individuals in government who show the deepest lack of regard for the peaceful co-existence in which they wish to live.

This recent attempt by some city councilors to thrust themselves into individual rights is a wide-open sign of why there is a constant struggle between "us and them". We place our trust in these persons to handle our money, which they take "without consent" from us as often as possible. Now these same people are going to tell us what we can and cannot do in our own places

of work that we built with our money and sweat. A lone businessperson working in their office is now being told that they are not allowed to smoke a cigarette unless they have "proper ventilation". Imagine, one person in one small office attempting to make ends meet will now have "drop-ins" from the "Cigarette Police". This could easily be interpreted further and have the



police enter the premises of anyone owning a "home base" business and shutting them down without any need for a warrant. Let us turn citizen against citizen and turn our city, and likely our country, into one that has a KGB agent on every street corner. That is what they are telling us to do.



## I believe they are due for a dose of civil disobedience.

Other politicians at the Provincial level might take note of this recent display of

### "lack of respect for the individual"

and entrepreneur and I might add voter. Word has it that there is a Provincial Election in the near future and you might want to ask yourself one question. Which politicians are attempting to abolish your rights to private property and destroy your independence? Might those politicians be as sneaky as those at city hall or might they just offer you a "subsidy" for your

heat and electricity and thus destroy your rights and freedoms by giving you a false sense of security while they wallow in power over the individual.

It is no secret as to why so many individuals have such distaste for the political "leaders",

since almost all of them are puppets to the stronger, very highly paid, lobby groups. The free enterprise system that we once proudly boasted about in Canada is slowly being replaced with the likes of those on our city council. Most of them would not know what it takes to operate a business because they never had to work a day in their lives for a pay cheque.

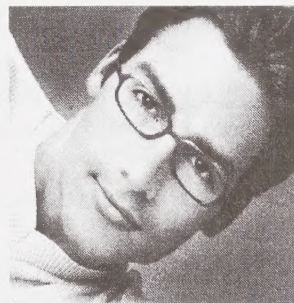
**We in the gay and lesbian community who fought a long battle in Alberta for some simple rights must now put our heads down in shame, simply because one city councilor thinks we have a poor self-image. Not very likely. It might be wise for that city councilor and his pikers to look into the mirror and turn off the red lights. As far as image goes how about a nice picture of Victoria Park!**

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# Capital City Politics



## Let's Build a Dream Together

*By Nancy MacBeth, Leader  
Alberta Official Opposition*

In 1900, just before Alberta changed from a Territory to a Province, our ancestors had a dream. They were building something grand, were looking ahead, full of confidence, to what this wonderful, resource rich land could be.

On the day that Alberta became a province in 1905, a story is told about the city-owned power company giving free electrical power for the day (believe it or not). Premier Alexander Rutherford, our first Premier, and a Liberal, said that the city would rival Paris, France, the city of light. Rutherford could never have imagined the dynamic, exciting places that Calgary and Edmonton have become.

What is our dream as we enter the 21st century? Isn't our real dream

and our real hope that we will be leading in all aspects of life in our country?

Leading — in cultural pursuits, with art and music and creative media that markets to the world. In athletics, with support for our amateur athletes to help them become the best they can be, able to compete internationally with confidence. In building the finest possible education system for all our students. In health care with a world caliber health network that serves the needs of our entire population with leading edge research and technology transfer. In developing our world-scale non-renewable resource enterprises safely and with sustainability.

In providing the world with the latest technology in resource development, and the US relies on us for an ever-increasing share of their critical natural gas supplies. The list is long.

But Alberta is more than just an economic model, a place to cut taxes, and privatize, or de-regulate.

Alberta is a place to raise our families, to enjoy freedom of speech, to learn, to hike the mountains, to fish the streams, to enjoy retirement.

That is the dream that we have for Alberta.

But to do all of this, we need something else. We need a government that listens, really listens, to what people are saying.

A government that listens to doctors, to nurses, to taxpayers, to hardworking Alberta families, to experts, to industrial power consumers.

**A government that listens to hardworking Albertans as they struggle with education, health care, their electricity bills.**

A government that understands the goals and dreams of Albertans as we strive to be the best we can be.

Just as Rutherford could never have imagined Alberta in 2001, I know that Alberta can be more than any of us can imagine today.

I ask you to give us the opportunity to fulfill that dream for you.

Let's build that dream together.



## Democracy Literally starts with a Simple "X"

*By Laurie Blakeman - Liberal  
MLA*

The Klein government's latest round of pre-election spending means that an election call in this province is not far away and this is your chance to take an active role in the democratic process by actively working on a



political campaign.

First, volunteer to work on a campaign. It's fun, easy and a great way to meet people who share the same concerns you do. And if you have no experience - don't worry - the campaign will be more than glad to train you in that respect.

Second, donate! Campaigns are always looking for money or other goods like office furniture, fax machines, or kitchen equipment. These campaigns operate at the bare bones level and any donation is greatly appreciated.

Finally and most importantly -VOTE! It is the single most vital thing you can do and it is truly your most essential responsibility as a citizen. Democracy literally starts with a simple "X" on a sheet of paper. Its importance is what we have fought wars over and it's something that we must never take for granted.

So, get your family, your friends, your colleagues and your team members together, and make a concerted effort to become involved in this election. Especially get younger people involved; 18-24 year olds are not participating in democracy. Send a clear statement to the government that you're not about to let them take away your voice as a citizen - no matter how hard they try and no matter how much money they throw your way. Now more than ever, it's important to play a role in the future of Alberta. Call your relatives who live outside Edmonton and get them to help you chase these tired Tories away. After 30 years they are just plain out of ideas and out of energy.

If you have any ideas or concerns on this or any other issues, please call or write to me with them. As your

representative, it is important that I have a sense of what you are feeling on these issues. You can mail letters to:

Laurie Blakeman, MLA Edmonton-Centre

10042 - 116 Street, Edmonton, AB, T5K 1V6

Phone 414-0743, Fax 414-0772

E-mail: blakeman@oanet.com



## New Democrats are Tough and Honest

*By Raj Pannu - ND MLA*

Alberta is served best when there is a strong team of New Democrats in the Legislature to represent important, progressive issues.

There is no other party that is as tough, honest and committed to important issues that matter to all Albertans as the New Democrats.

During the recent federal election, many expressed concern that there was a polarizing effect occurring in Canadian politics. Both the Alliance and Liberal Parties tried to turn the

election into a two-party race, trying to squeeze all the other parties. Thank God this didn't happen.

Without a diversity of parties, we are all worse off.

As the leader of the Alberta New Democrats, I am proud of the role I, and my party, have played as a leading part of a progressive movement in Alberta.

I am proud of the fact that it was the New Democrat caucus who first opposed Bill 37 (the father of Bill 11).

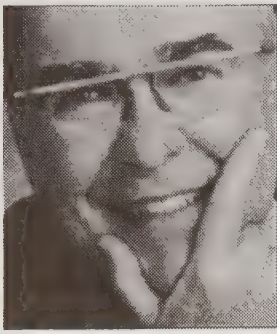
We are also the only caucus that consistently points out the fact that flat taxes, unfair tax cuts, and referenda on tax increases pose a real threat. The New Democrats are deeply committed to social services such as universal health care and because of the immeasurable benefits they provide to Albertans.

I am especially proud that the New Democrats were the first caucus to raise warning flags about the use of the notwithstanding clause to limit the rights of victims of forced sterilization.

I am proud that we were able to articulate why this use of the notwithstanding clause was offensive to the people victims of sterilization, but also to the other groups who would be next on the 'Notwithstanding Hit List.'

The best way to ensure that the government is held to account is to vote for the New Democrats. Only the New Democrats provide the tough, honest and committed representation that can make a difference in the Legislature and outside.





# Through The Haze: Banning Smoking!

*By City Councillor  
Michael Phair*

For the last few months City Council has been looking at the question of smoking. I have been surprised at the amount of comments and feedback that this issue has generated. Part of my surprise comes because I know that most people realize that smoking is unhealthy and most understand that second hand smoke is unhealthy for those who inhale it.

*We all know the facts:*

Secondhand smoke is a known carcinogen and a recognized workplace hazard. Secondhand smoke has been linked to heart disease, various cancers, and numerous respiratory diseases.

Tobacco smoke is the most harmful and widespread contaminant of indoor air and Canadians spend about 90% of their time indoors.

*And we all know the excuses  
"I am too old to quit"*

"It is too late to quit; the damage is already done.  
"If I quit, I'll gain weight!

But hear from Edmontonians we did! Over 9000 e-mails, letters, and phone calls were made to City Council. Interestingly about 75% supported banning smoking. From Ward 4 alone I heard from about 1500 people and over 1100 wanted to ban smoking. I chaired a public hearing on smoking and 77 persons spoke to us (for the 2001 proposed \$1 billion budget only 15 citizens attended the public hearing!). At times, those who were opposed were quite vociferous, angry and, on a couple of occasions, vicious. Many opposed argued that such measures would limit or prohibit their individual rights. I found that my understanding of individual rights is very different and that Council's direction would not prohibit a person from smoking but would ban smoking in a few locations.

***Although final  
reading is days away  
the results will likely  
be that smoking will  
not be allowed in any  
work place unless  
there is a separately  
ventilated room,  
regardless of the  
number of employees.  
Bingo halls that allow  
under 18 year olds to work  
or volunteer on the  
premises must prohibit  
smoking; and restaurants  
will be smoke free unless  
they opt to be adult only  
and prohibit anyone from  
under 18 entering their  
premises.***

The other part of the surprise for me on the smoking issue was the number of gay men (and a few lesbians) who contacted me and were adamantly opposed to banning smoking in restaurants. With the exception of the 'Delwin Vriend' decision no other issue has brought out so many readers of Times.10 to contact me! It is intriguing when I compare the gay meccas of the west: Los Angeles, San Francisco, Vancouver and Victoria where smoking is banned in all restaurants, bars and lounges! (Vancouver is only restaurants).

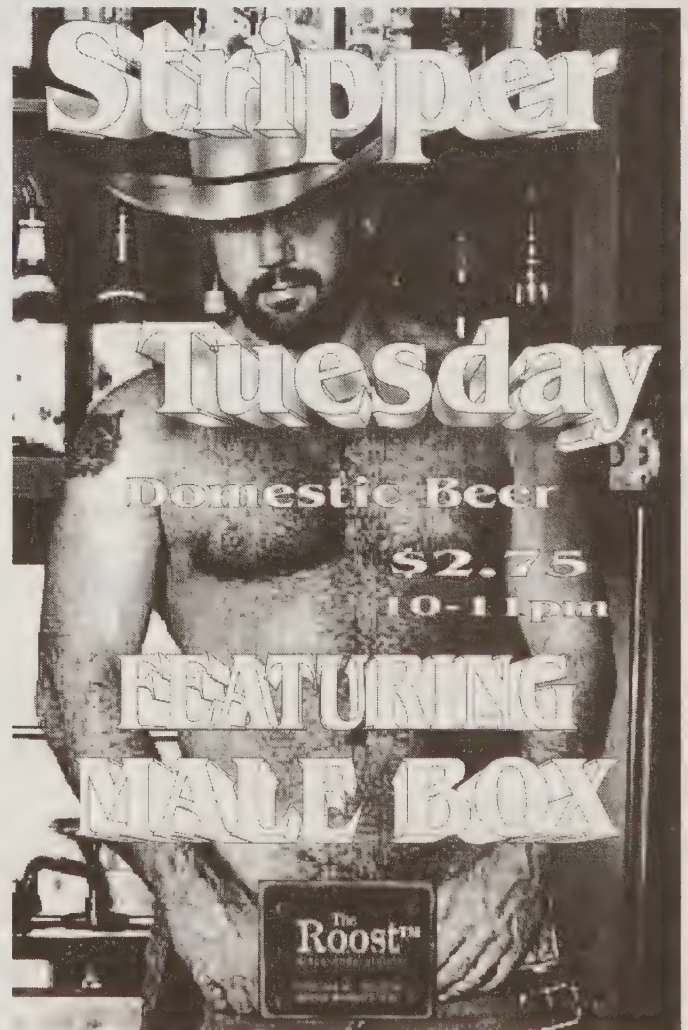
In trying to understand both the numbers and passion of gay men opposed, I wonder whether the following reasons might explain it.

Left over youth rebelliousness and that sense of being on the 'outside', cool to smoke but not a good thing to do.

Way to relax and relieve stress while avoiding reducing the causes for the stress; and, Social pressure (and maybe a little homophobia)—as a gay man I am not as good as other men and I don't deserve to be healthy.

I have voted to ban smoking in restaurants, but I now realize that there is still a great deal of additional education to be done, especially with gay men.

(Comments or questions about the city, contact Councillor Phair at 496-8146 (phone), 496-8113 (fax), or e-mail [michael.phair@gov.edmonton.ab.ca](mailto:michael.phair@gov.edmonton.ab.ca))





# A View from the Top

*By Scott Bryen,  
Northern Chaps*

Northern Chaps will be 17 years old in February. That's one-year shy of being legal age in Alberta. The celebration will take place at the Edmonton Arts Centre during Black Ice on February 24, 2001.

Anniversaries are a time for reflection and members of the executive spend some time digging through the Northern Chaps archives. Sometimes

lovingly referred to as the "official boxes of crap." Putting a full history of the club together and telling stories about the many unique personalities involved with the club over the years would make for an anthology too long for a newspaper article in Times .10. However, we would like to include a short tribute to some of the people who have made Edmonton's original leather-uniform-fetish club a success over its 17-year journey.

Northern Chaps started as a group in 1984 according to the earliest correspondence. The organization, as we know it today, was formalized in 1987 and the pioneering executive was comprised of Rick Hurburt, Rob Hoey, and Bart Stewart. This very small and high profile group rapidly gained standing in our gay and lesbian community. Northern Chaps was created to educate people about the fetish lifestyle and to provide opportunities to

socialize and learn from others. This primary focus has never changed and events like the recent **Tops-to-Bottoms** workshop, Black Ice on February 24 and our upcoming **Black Solstice** party on June 16 for the 2001 Pride Festival are examples to the continuing effort every executive has made to keep true to the original focus of our founding members.

Northern Chaps has held many other events over the years two of which are the Candy Cane Extravaganza (a fund raiser for the Food Bank), the Drummer Competition (a titled contest for leather people)

People such as Tom Picard, Jim Alexander, Edward Sandberg, Mike Kurylo, Karen Kurylo, Barry G., Mike Sinnott, Dave Hinton, Gordon Brilz, Don Bryant, Geoff Williams, and many others too numerous to

mention within our small space, have continued the traditions of the founders to make the club what it is today. We of the current executive would like to take this opportunity to extend a heart-felt **thank you** for all the effort and love that has gone into Northern Chaps. You have made this group one of the most successful small-city leather groups in North America.

Join us in celebrating 17-years of Northern Chaps at the Black Ice XVII party at the Edmonton Arts Centre on February 24, 2001. Tickets and information are available on our website, [www.sandmproductions.com/northernchaps](http://www.sandmproductions.com/northernchaps), or at **Conrad's Sugar Bowl** during normal business hours.

Yours in leather  
Scott Bryen  
A.K.A. LthrAussie

## Positive Networks Symposium 2001 and Positive Spirit Workshop March 9 – 12, 2001 at the FCJ Christian Life Centre Calgary, Alberta

Positive Action; an HIV positive peer based group in partnership with the Canadian Red Cross Society and ICARE have come together to present a four day gathering for persons living with HIV/AIDS from Alberta, Nunavut and Northwest Territories.

The Symposium and Positive Spirit Workshop will offer persons living with HIV/AIDS the opportunity to connect with their peers in a safe environment to learn more about the realities and issues that affect their lives while living with HIV/AIDS.

A limited number of scholarships are available to persons living outside the Calgary area so early registration is strongly encouraged to anyone interested in attending this event.

Registration forms are available at local AIDS Service Organizations and can be mailed or faxed to the address provided the brochure by **February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2001.**

For more information on how to register or volunteer please contact Mark Randall, Project Coordinator at (403) 508-2500 extension 313 or email [symposiumpa@hotmail.com](mailto:symposiumpa@hotmail.com).

**Symposium funded by** The Alberta Community HIV Fund, a joint partnership of the Alberta Community Council on HIV, Health Canada/Alberta Health and Wellness initiative. **Symposium is a Partnership Project between** Positive Action and Canadian Red Cross Society. **Workshop is a partnership Project between** Positive Action and ICARE.



# Splinters from the Womonspace Board

*By Suzanne Dawson*

Womonspace has continued to support community causes over the past several months. In December, Womonspace donated \$225 to WIN House Women's Shelter, \$50 to GLCCE for their Christmas dinner, and \$225 to Living Positive / HIV Edmonton for the AIDS hospice. In January, Womonspace also donated \$100 to the Youth Emergency Shelter.

Congratulations to Helen, who brought her daughter home safely to Edmonton in January. However, Helen's legal battle continues. To

make a donation to Helen's legal defense fund, contact Secrets or mail your donation (clearly indicating that it is for Helen's legal fund) c/o Womonspace at Box 128, Main P. O., Edmonton, AB, T5J 3J4. Thanks to Linda, a Womonspace member who generously donated her \$150 energy rebate cheque to Helen's child custody defense fund.

Womonspace is planning some exciting events for February! On Saturday, February 17, 2001, before the Womonspace dance, we're hosting a Sweetheart's Potluck dinner at Westmount Hall (10970 - 127 St.). Bring a supper dish to share, and taste the culinary talents of our lesbian community! Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and supper starts at 7 p.m. Buns and condiments will be provided. Please bring serving utensils. The bar will be open with great drink specials starting at 6:30 p.m. and our DJ starts at 8 p.m. just for those

attending the potluck! If you come to the potluck with a supper dish, you'll get into the Womonspace dance at a reduced cost.

The Womonspace Sweetheart's Dance follows the potluck at 9 p.m. The dance is for women only and the venue is non-smoking. If you've purchased a Womonspace membership between November 1, 2000 and February 17, 2001 (you can buy a membership at the dance!), you're eligible for our Womonspace "We Recruit" Membership Drive prize of a cordless drill to be drawn at the dance. Remember, our DJ plays your musical requests - dedicate a song to your sweetheart! We'd like to hear from you about the kind of music you'd like us to play at the dances: new country, dance, 80s, techno, polka? Unless you tell us, we won't know! Send your suggestions to [womonspace@hotmail.com](mailto:womonspace@hotmail.com) or leave a message at 482-1794.


Celebrate winter at our Womonspace Winter Extravaganza on Sunday, February 25, 2001 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at Fort Edmonton Park. There will be a sleigh ride at 1:45, with ice skating on the pond, a bonfire, wiener roast, and lots of games and loads of fun! Hot dogs, marshmallows and hot chocolate will be provided. If you'd like to attend, leave a message at 482-1794.

This is the place to find a women's space. Womonspace Social and Recreational Society, Phone: (780) 482-1794, Fax: (780) 455-9344, Box 128, Main PO Edmonton, AB. Go to our WebPages at [www.gaycanada.com/womonspace/](http://www.gaycanada.com/womonspace/)  
Upcoming Topics:  
March: Lesbian Entertainment  
April: Activism  
May: Travel  
June: Pride / Coming Out

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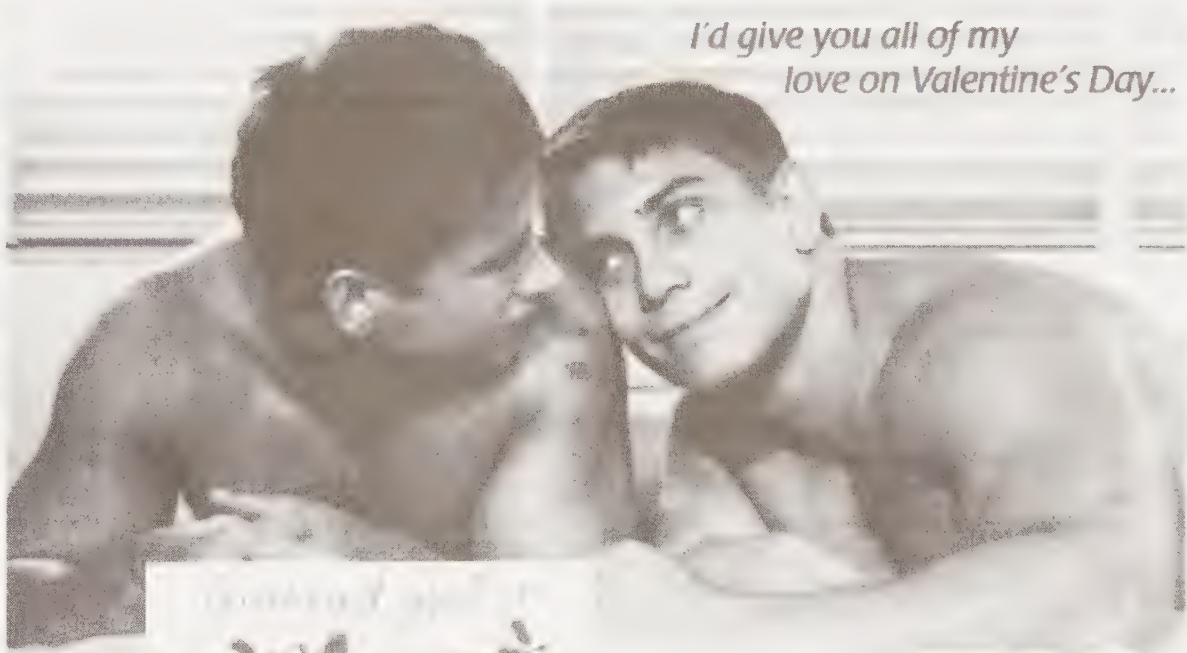
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# Recognized Community Builders

## **Affirm United**

(United Church of Canada) meets at McDougall United Church 10025 - 101 St. Last Saturday of the month at 7:30 - 9:30 PM. For more info, call Larry at 429-4269 or Phyllis/Tess at 462-8896.

## **Alberta Pflag**

Meets the last Sunday of each month at Knox-Met Church. The Church is located at the corner of 109 Street and 83 Avenue. Meeting time is 2 P.M. Contact Ellen by phone at 465-3057 or by e-mail [showrish@compusmart.ab.ca](mailto:showrish@compusmart.ab.ca).

## **Alcoholics Anonymous**

A A is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. Call 424-5900 for times and places of Gay and Lesbian meetings.

## **Arctic FrontRunners**

We are a group of gay and lesbian runners that meets on Sunday mornings for a run on the river valley trail system. We are a recreational group and runners of all speeds are welcome. The length of our runs varies from about 7 to 10 km. We yak, laugh, and socialize during the runs and often go for brunch together afterward. During the spring, summer, and fall, we meet beneath the electronic sign at 87 Ave and 114 St on the University campus at 11:00 AM. For more information, call Bill at 436-7892.

## **AXIOS - Edmonton**

AXIOS is an international organization of Eastern Orthodox and Eastern-Rite Catholic Gay and Lesbian Christians. Our mandate is to promote a greater understanding of human sexuality and spirituality within the Eastern Christian tradition. The AXIOS monthly newsletter is available via the Internet.

## **Badminton League**

The badminton league is designed for men and women of all ages and experience. Players who are interested can participate in Calgary's Western Cup Tournament during the Easter Long Weekend. For further information, please contact Bruce at 453-1244 (email: [cwbyteddy@powersurfr.com](mailto:cwbyteddy@powersurfr.com)) or Dennis at 471-4409.

## **Bare Naked Boys Club of Edmonton - BNBC**

A naturist group of gay men in Edmonton interested in social nudity. This is not a sex club. Men of all ages welcome. Call Fred at 471-6993 and at the email address [bnbc@interbaun.com](mailto:bnbc@interbaun.com)

## **The B.E.A.R.S of Edmonton**

A group for hairy men and their admirers meet the first and third Saturday of each month 9:00 p. m. - 11:00 p.m. at Buddys Night Club. Or write us at #47, 10024-82nd Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T6E 1Z3. Our email address is [bears@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca](mailto:bears@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca). Our WebPages are: <http://www.freenet.edmonton.ab.ca/~bears>

## **Brethren Mennonite Council**

For Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual concerns. This is a support community for gay, lesbian and bisexual

Mennonites and friends.

Contact Tim at 434-5360 or Heather at 987-4974. email address [jonrach@msn.com](mailto:jonrach@msn.com)

## **Dignity Edmonton**

This Edmonton chapter is a support community for gay and lesbian Catholics and friends. Contact Bernard at 451-1794 or Joseph at 481-4218

## **Classics**

A social group for lesbians over 40. Meetings on the first Sunday of the month at 2 p.m.. Call Donna at 456-1008

## **Edmonton PFLAG/T**

Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians & Gays. Edmonton PFLAG/T promotes the health and well-being of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender persons, their families and friends through support, education and advocacy. Meetings are held the 3rd Tuesday of the month at GLCCE. For information contact, Lynne at 462-5958 or e-mail: [pflag@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca](mailto:pflag@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca).

## **Edmonton Prime Timers**

We are a chapter of Prime Timers Worldwide, an international social organization for mature gay and bisexual men and their younger friends over 21. Our activities include: theatre nights, video nights, pub nights, Sunday brunches, and dining out. We meet the second Sunday of every month (except July and August) at 3:00 PM at the Unitarian Church of Edmonton (12530 110 Ave.) for a social period, a guest speaker, and an optional supper at a restaurant. For more information, contact Peter at 426-7019, Ron by e-mail at [mercury@planet.eon.net](mailto:mercury@planet.eon.net), or better yet...join us at our

monthly meeting.

## **Edmonton Rainbow Business Association (ERBA):**

Gay men and Lesbians in business and our non-gay friends; Join us ...share your business knowledge, learn more, make new friends, network ... in positive, proud space where being yourself is the norm. Call Bill Faulkner for more information at 422 6207. Membership \$25.00/yr.

## **Edmonton Vocal Minority**

Women and men of all sexual orientations dedicated to sharing and preserving the cultural heritage of the queer community. Everyone is welcome to join this mixed voice choir as either a singer or a support member. Come and sing your pride! For information: Telephone: (780) 479.2038, E-mail:

[evm@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca](mailto:evm@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca),

on the web at: <http://www.planet.eon.net/~toocute/>

[evm/](mailto:evm/), or write to PO Box 12091, Main Post Office Edmonton, AB T5J 3L2.

## **Equal=Alberta [Edmonton]**

Equal=Alberta [Edmonton] is a group of concerned citizens working to ensure gay and lesbian Albertans remain protected under Alberta's Human Rights Legislation and to ensure equal treatment for all Albertans. Call: (780) 488-3234 Fax (780) 482-2855. By Email:

[equalalberta@hotmail.com](mailto:equalalberta@hotmail.com)

## **Feather of Hope Aboriginal AIDS Prevention Society**

The Feather of Hope was founded on a need to provide AIDS education and support to Native People in Alberta. Through education and the development of communities in partnership, it is hoped that the spread of AIDS will be



lessened. Volunteers are very important to us. If you can help, or would simply like some more information call 488-5773

### **Freedom Metropolitan Community Church**

We are a local church within the denomination of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches. Our major focus is to the defranchised of society. The UFMCC allows anyone to feel a part of the Christian Community and to claim our place in God's Universe. For service time and location call 780-429-2321.

### **Free-To-Be Volleyball Association**

The Association aspires to provide opportunities for our community to play volleyball in a supportive atmosphere.

1) C-Recreation - contact Rick at 474-6785; 2) Beach (summer) - contact Rick at 474-6785; 3) B-Intermediate - contact Darcy at 425-7316; 4) Tournament - contact Andrew at 435-9379. Email: [ftb.volleyball@telusplanet.net](mailto:ftb.volleyball@telusplanet.net) Website: <http://www.telusplanet.net/public/aschust/ftb.htm>

### **Gay Men's Wednesday Coffee Evenings.**

At 7:30 p.m. Café on Whyte at 10159 - 82 Avenue. This group fosters a safe, comfortable environment for all its participants. At the same time, it discourages attendance solely for sexual relations. Join us to relax, share experiences, and establish friendships. There is no age limit. Tel: 780-463-2098 (Graham) E-mail: [gwwatts@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca](mailto:gwwatts@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca).

Website: <http://www.geocities.com/WestHollywood/Castro/5598>

### **Gay Men's Outreach Crew (GMOC)**

GMOC is a peer education

initiative for gay/bisexual men that works toward: preventing the spread of HIV among men who have sex with men, advocating for healthy lifestyle choices, and addressing social and health concerns by fostering self-esteem and gay positive attitudes. For information on GMOC workshops and other activities, please call Kirk at (780) 488-3234

### **Guys Going Dancing**

Tired of dancing alone in a crowded club? We meet every Friday from 10:00PM at Buddy's Dance Club, 11725 - Jasper Avenue for companionship and fun on the dance floor. To join us, contact Graham 463-2098 or e-mail: [gwwatts@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca](mailto:gwwatts@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca)

### **HIV Network of Edmonton Society (HIV Edmonton)**

HIV Edmonton works cooperatively with all those organizations in Alberta and across the country who are working to help limit the spread of HIV infection. HIV Edmonton utilizes a best practices Harm Reduction approach in Health Promotion, Advocacy and Support, as well as, maintaining an extensive Resource Centre for use by health practitioners, health promoters, community organizations and those infected and affected by HIV. For more information on the activities of HIV Edmonton, please call (780) 488-5742 or contact us by email at [mail@hivedmonton.com](mailto:mail@hivedmonton.com). Visit our Website at <http://www.hivedmonton.com/>.

### **Illusions Social Club**

A social club for Cross-dressers, Transsexuals and their supporters. We hold two socials each month, one on the second Thursday and one on the third Saturday. For more information, write to

Illusions Social Club. Our mailing address is Box 1852, Edmonton, T5K 2P2; or phone 488-3234 on Tuesday evenings to talk to someone person to person.

### **Imperial Sovereign Court of the Wild Rose**

The mission of the Court is to raise funds for charities and other organizations, which provide direct services to gay and lesbian individuals. Meetings of the Society are held at 8 PM on the last Wednesday of the month at the Garage. Our e-mail is:

[wildrosecourt@yahoo.com](mailto:wildrosecourt@yahoo.com).

Visit our Website is at: <http://www.geocities/wildrosecourt>

### **ICARE Interfaith Centre for AIDS/HIV Resources & Education**

Formerly Interfaith Association on AIDS, the purpose of Interfaith Centre is to enhance well-being by offering resources and opportunities for education to service providers and communities. This will lead to an increased understanding of the spiritual and psychosocial needs of those affected by HIV & AIDS. You can contact us at 780-448-1768 or by e-mail at [icarealberta@aol.com](mailto:icarealberta@aol.com)

### **Lambda Christian Community Church**

We are a non-denominational evangelical Christian church. One of our primary goals is to provide a safe and affirming environment for all who desire to worship God. Lambda Community Church, 11148-84 Avenue (Garneau United Place) Edmonton, T6G 0V8. Call 474-0753. Weekly Sunday service at 7 p. m. e-mail at [Lambdachurch@aol.com](mailto:Lambdachurch@aol.com)

### **Liatris Society**

An informal social group for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered and straight people who enjoy gardening and outdoor nature activities. For information, contact [liatrisociety@hotmail.com](mailto:liatrisociety@hotmail.com) or William at 474-7328.

### **Liaison Committee, The**

In June of 1993, Edmonton Police Service and the Gay and Lesbian community met for a liaison to promote an atmosphere of understanding and mutual respect. For more info, call Edmonton Police Service at 423-4567 or contact the committee at 421-2277

### **Living Positive**

Emotional, spiritual and psychological support is available through Living Positive to all those affected by HIV infection. We offer strong, loving, confidential support. We also meet weekly and share our mutual experiences. Living Positive is entirely directed by and for people who share a common diagnosis of HIV+. Peer counseling, hospital visits and a speakers bureau are also available through our society. Phone 488-5768 or e-mail:

[livepos@connect.ab.ca](mailto:livepos@connect.ab.ca).

### **Long Yang Club Edmonton Chapter**

We are an International organization for Gay-Asians and non-Asians. We are the worlds largest with chapters in 28 cities and 11 countries. Come and Join US! Contact us via Graham at 463-2098.

### **Lutherans Concerned: Edmonton**

We are a spiritual community for lesbian, gay, bisexual and straight people. Lutherans Concerned gathers monthly for worship, sharing, and friendship. We offer individual support and a safe space for our own spiritual



# Support Groups and Services

questions. Call 462-2146, or write P.O. Box 11095, Edmonton, AB, T5J 3K4 e-mail:

[luthconc@crossroads.edmonton.com](mailto:luthconc@crossroads.edmonton.com)

## **Making Waves Swim Club (MWSC)**

Making Waves Swim Club is open to all that have an interest in swimming at any level: learn to swim, stroke improvement or competitive training. Our first swim practice of our 2000/2001 season will be Sunday, September 10th at a new location, Confederation Pool, 11204-43 Avenue, Sundays from 7-8:30 p.m. and Thursday evenings at 8:30 - 9:30 p.m. Contact us at: 1. Webpages: [http://www.geocities.com/makingwaves\\_edm/home.htm](http://www.geocities.com/makingwaves_edm/home.htm). 2. E-mail: [makingwaves\\_edm@yahoo.com](mailto:makingwaves_edm@yahoo.com) 3. Phone: Warren 780-718-7598. 4. Attend a practice - your first swim is free!

## **Metropolitan Community Church of Edmonton (M.C.C.)**

We are a local church within the denomination of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches. Our major focus is to the defranchised of society. The UFMCC allows anyone to feel a part of the Christian Community and to claim our place in God's Universe.

## **NLA Edmonton**

The National Leather Association is the largest and most active pansexual organization in the world. It serves the Leather, SM, Fetish communities. We are an all inclusive organization made up of fun-loving, caring, educated and focused people. Join us at

our meetings held upstairs at The Roost, 10345-104 Street every 3rd Thursday of the month.

## **Northern Chaps**

Edmonton's Leather - Fetish club for Gay, Lesbian, and straight men and womyn was established sixteen years ago. We strike to educate the rest of the community through workshops, staged demonstrations and events in order to heighten awareness. Northern Chaps meets at Buddys Nite Club the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month. E-mail us at: [Northernchaps@telusplanet.net](mailto:Northernchaps@telusplanet.net)

## **Northern Titans**

Northern Titans International Bowling League meets every Wednesday and Saturday, September to April, at Gateway Bowling Centre. For more information, please call Garry Billett at (780) 426-6311. WebPages at: <http://www.geocities.com/northerntitans/>

## **O2 Curling**

We meet on Fridays from 6-8 p.m. at the GraniteCurling Club. All skill levels, singles or teams are welcome. Call 479-0211 or E-mail us at: [1deeka@hotmail.com](mailto:1deeka@hotmail.com)

## **Open Door Club**

Grant MacEwan College group. Anyone is welcome, including students, college employees, people from the area, perspective students, alumni or people who are interested in meeting other people. Our WebPages are at: <http://www.geocities.com/opendoorclub/> or E-mail us at: [opendoorclub@hotmail.com](mailto:opendoorclub@hotmail.com)

## **Out at the Symphony**

A unique social event for gay men. Meet other music lovers on Saturday evenings for concerts of the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra Masters mini-series 1. Enjoy special guest speakers, reserved café tables at intermission and post-show fun. Contact Paul at 428-1108 ext. 240 for more information. Visit the ESO site at [www.edmontonsymphony.com](http://www.edmontonsymphony.com).

## **Outdoors Club**

Have you an an interest in backcountry hiking/camping? If so, the Outdoors Club is for you. Our purpose is to get people together for hiking/camping trips, primarily within the Rockies and surrounding area. Although the main focus of this group is on individuals of moderate (and higher) ability within the 20 to 30 age group, it is by no means exclusive. For information, please contact us at 780-430-0759 or e-mail: [glb\\_outdoors@hotmail.com](mailto:glb_outdoors@hotmail.com)

## **OUTreach**

OUTreach is a university-based organization for gays, lesbians and bisexuals interested in an academic atmosphere. Meetings are held every Tuesday at 5:00 p.m. on campus, main floor of the Athabasca Hall. Topics vary from week to week. Additional info is available by e-mail: [outreach@gpu.srv.ualberta.ca](mailto:outreach@gpu.srv.ualberta.ca)

## **Team Edmonton**

Team Edmonton - Gay Games Association is set up to provide an opportunity for persons interested in participating in the Gay Games through fund raising. If you would like to be

involved with Team Edmonton, call Johann at 437-0687.

## **Yours Mine Ours And Us**

Parenting support group for glbt parents, partners. Meets the first and third Wed. of the month from 7 - 9 p.m. Small donations for room costs. Issues of parenting, sharing skills, coming out to kids, discipline etc. Call Liz at 415-5434 or Garry at 426-6311 for more information. This is peer support, not a therapy group, nor a dating service. WebPages at: [http://www.geocities.com/ymou\\_1999/](http://www.geocities.com/ymou_1999/)

## **Youth Understanding Youth**

We meet every Saturday from 7 to 9 p.m. at the gay and lesbian Centre of Edmonton, Suite 103, 10612-124 Street. A social support group for anyone under the age of 25 years. For more information, or to give your input, e-mail: [yuyedm@hotmail.com](mailto:yuyedm@hotmail.com)

## **Visions - Unitarian Church of Edmonton**

We are an open, liberal religious community that value diversity. With us, you are encouraged with open mind and heart to form your own set of personal beliefs. Sunday services at 9:30am and 11:15am. 12530 - 110 Avenue Ph. 454-8073. For more information, call Mike at 482-6582.

## **Volleyball Recreation League**

We meet every Tuesday from 6 to 8 p.m. at McCauley Elementary-Jr. High School, 9538-107 Avenue. Updates available at: <http://www.telusplanet.net/public/aschust/vball/crec.htm>



### **Volleyball Intermediate League**

We meet every Monday from 6 to 8 p.m. at Londonderry Jr. High School, 7104-144 Avenue. Updates available at: <http://www.telusplanet.net/public/aschust/vball/bskills.htm>

### **Womyn's Volleyball League**

Free-To-Be Volleyball Association has initiated a womyn's only league for the first time this year. The season runs until May 28 and new members are welcome at any point. A drop-in fee of \$5 or a registration fee of \$35 is in effect. Monday nights 7 - 9 p.m. at Highlands Jr. High School (11509 - 62 St. - please use entrance off parking lot. For more information, please contact: Pam at 459-9370

[p\\_mcewin@hotmail.com](mailto:p_mcewin@hotmail.com) or Jenn at 424-5100  
[grnwolf@hotmail.com](mailto:grnwolf@hotmail.com)

### **Womonspace**

We are a social and recreational society for lesbians in Edmonton. We hold monthly dances and other activities. Look for our monthly newsletter around town, or phone 482-1794. Visit our WebPages at <http://www.gaycanada.com/womonspace/>

### **Writers Club**

There are several successful gay writers in Edmonton. Many more write as a hobby just for the fun of it. The goal is to establish a Writers Club, which will encourage and support the serious writers of the future, and at the same time increase the pleasure of the hobbyists. The Writers Club meets biweekly on Mondays from 7:30PM to 9:30PM. For further info contact Graham 463-2098 or e-mail:

[gwatts@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca](mailto:gwatts@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca)

## **Regional Organizations**

### **AIDS Yellowknife**

Website: <http://www.ssimicro.com/aids/>  
**Freedom Fort McMurray**  
A social Support group for Gays/Lesbian/Bisexual & Transgendered Persons and their friends. For information on upcoming events and inquiring into membership, please call our Freedom line (780) 799-GAY1 (4291). To speak directly with a welcoming committee member, call between 3-6pm on Tuesdays or Thursdays. You may mail us at Freedom Fort McMurray c/o Money Mart Suite #1, 9713 Harding St. Fort McMurray, AB T9H 1L2.

### **Grande Prairie**

Gay and Lesbian Community, Box 1492, Grande Prairie, AB T8V 4Z3. E-mail: [pellerin@gprc.ab.ca](mailto:pellerin@gprc.ab.ca)

### **Northern Rainbow Youth**

A support group for High School students. Our email address is [nry13\\_18@hotmail.com](mailto:nry13_18@hotmail.com). Any high school student can get more info by contacting their school guidance counselor. If you want more info yourself, then you can call Crystal at (780) 790-0775 at work.

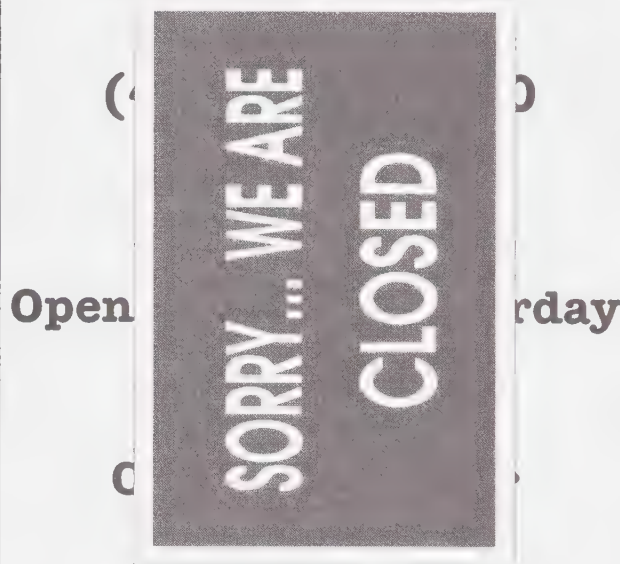
### **Out North**

Box 2827, Yellowknife, NT., X1A 2R2, Phone line: 867-669-7279. WebPages: <http://www.yellowknife.com/ptartan/outnorth.htm> E-mail: [out\\_north99@hotmail.com](mailto:out_north99@hotmail.com)

**For up-to-date Events and Times you can check our Community Calendar at [www.times10.org](http://www.times10.org)**

## **The Other Place**

**# 4 - 5579 - 47 Street  
Red Deer, Alberta**



**[www.times10.org](http://www.times10.org)**

Your group can be listed here as a community service of Times .10. Please try to keep your listing updated. This is not the place to make announcements of upcoming events, just general information and a contact. E-mail your listing to [times10@telusplanet.net](mailto:times10@telusplanet.net)



# HIV Edmonton's Three- Year Plan 2001 – 2004

April 1, 2001 a new three-year Alberta Community HIV Fund (ACHF) funding cycle will begin; this funding forms the basis of the programming at HIV Edmonton. In anticipation of this funding cycle early in 2000, the Board of HIV Edmonton established a three-year Planning Committee to work with the board, staff and our partners to develop a comprehensive

three-year plan. At the January 15<sup>th</sup> Board meeting the three-year Plan 2001 – 2004 was approved. Below is a summary of that final report.

As a first step, the mission and vision statement of HIV Edmonton was reworked.

## HIV Network of Edmonton Society

### Mission Statement

HIV Edmonton educates, supports and advocates for those infected and affected by HIV and related conditions.

Major Goals of the Society are:

To collaborate with organizations and institutions which can assist in addressing HIV and related issues.

To advocate through collective

efforts for individuals, communities and populations around issues related to HIV.

To provide support and enhance the lives of those infected and affected by HIV.

To limit the transmission of HIV particularly through population health strategies including health promotion and harm reduction

### Recommendation One:

That HIV Edmonton continue to provide HIV related services to all the "at risk" populations including the Aboriginal populations. These at risk populations would include gay and bisexual men, men, women, youth and Aboriginal. Focus areas to include corrections, addictions, the ethno cultural communities and housing. Other areas may be addressed

as resources permit.

### Recommendation Two:

That HIV Edmonton continues to work in tandem with the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered communities to develop appropriate health and social service programming.

### Recommendation Three:

That HIV Edmonton continue to work with the Aboriginal communities in Regions 10, 11, and 12 as mandated through our ACHF funding to strengthen the capacities of those communities to deal with the HIV crisis they are facing.

### Recommendation Four:

That the Development strategies outlined in this three-year plan be implemented.

The recommendations in the Development Committee

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Strategic Plan were as follows:  
That HIV Edmonton continues to participate in the provincial and/or national AIDS walk in coordination with ACCH.  
That HIV Edmonton holds the Black and White Affair for two more years, that is, in the spring of 2001 and 2002.  
That HIV Edmonton immediately begins planning a replacement annual event for the spring of 2003.  
That the Development Committee...concentrates on developing a direct mail, corporate donations, and a planned giving program.

Recommendation Five:

That the board establishes a bylaws committee to reexamine their current bylaws...

Recommendation Six:

That the advocacy work undertaken by the board be strengthened with the board presenting a public voice on issues and that the proactive policy work continues.

Recommendation Seven:

That HIV Edmonton explore and implement communication strategies to clarify with their stakeholders, including donors, collaborative agencies and the affected communities at large, the nature and scope of the programming currently being undertaken by the organization.

Recommendation Eight:

That during the course of the next year, HIV Edmonton explore the role of the Tom Edge Resource Centre vis a vis it's relationship to the work of the organization.

Recommendation Nine:

That a review of this strategic plan be held in the mid way though the second year of the

funding cycle...

The three-year plan was a dynamic process with discussion and implementation occurring throughout the year. It is therefore safe to say that a substantial portion of the suggested directions and recommendations are in process — Recommendations 1, 3, 4, and 5. The other Recommendations require additional clarification and planning — Recommendations 2, 6, 7 and 8.

Should you wish a full copy of the Three-Year Final Report or have questions, please call HIV Edmonton at 488 – 5742 or check our Website [www.hivedmonton.com](http://www.hivedmonton.com).

**Sherry McKibben**  
**Executive Director**

## Syphilis And Men Who Have Sex With Men (MSM)

*A brief summary of a recent outbreak of syphilis among MSM*

*who use chat rooms and telephone personals.*

**Compiled by Robert Smith, HIV Edmonton,**

In December, 2000, the Provincial STD Medical Consultant from Disease Control and Prevention of Alberta Health and Wellness, Dr. Ameeta Singh, has issued the following heads up to a new syphilis concern.

In 1999 there were two cases of infectious syphilis reported in Alberta. Prior to these cases, there have been no locally acquired cases for many years.

Since September 21, 2000, eight (8) cases of infectious syphilis have been reported from Calgary. Six (6) of these cases diagnosed since November 10. In January, 2001, one case was reported in Edmonton.

All cases are among men who have sex with men (MSM). At least four (4) cases have been linked to contact via an Internet chat room. The Edmonton case has been informally linked to one of the two Edmonton bathhouses. The individual "thinks" he may have been in contact with someone from Vancouver, but this has not been confirmed.

Four (4) cases are also HIV co-infected.

***Edited from the Centre for Disease Control (CDC) website, here are the facts.***

### ***What is Syphilis?***

Syphilis is a complex sexually transmitted disease (STD) caused by the bacterium *Treponema Pallidum*. It has often been called the great imitator because so many of the signs and symptoms are indistinguishable from those of other diseases. Syphilis is passed from person to person through direct contact with a syphilis sore. Sores mainly

occur on the external genitals, anus, or in the rectum and can occur on the lips and in the mouth. Transmission occurs during vaginal, anal, or oral sex. Syphilis cannot be spread by toilet seats, door knobs, swimming pools, hot tubs, bath tubs, shared clothing, or eating utensils.

### ***What are the signs and symptoms in Adults?***

The first signs can take from 10 to 90 days but it usually takes around 21 days to five weeks to incubate. The first sign is a single sore, firm, round, small and painless and appears where the bacterium enters the body. It takes one to five weeks for the sore to disappear on its own.

Untreated, the infection goes into a second stage that manifests in a rash on one or more areas of the skin, but the rash does not itch. The rash often appears as rough, "copper penny" spots on both the palms of the hands and the bottoms of the feet. The rash also may appear as a prickly heat rash, as small blotches or scales all over the body, as a bad case of old acne, as moist warts in the groin area, as slimy white patches in the mouth, as sunken dark circles the size of a nickel or dime, or as pus-filled bumps like chicken pox. Some of these signs on the skin look like symptoms of other diseases. Sometimes the rashes are so faint they are not noticed and typically last 2-6 weeks before clearing up on their own. In addition to rashes, second stage symptoms can include fever, swollen lymph glands, sore throat, patchy hair loss, headaches, weight loss, muscle aches, and tiredness. ***A person can easily pass the disease to sex partners when first or second stage signs or symptoms are present.***

The latent (hidden) stage of syphilis begins when the

**Continued on page 24**



# Speaking Of Normal

*Co-authored by Liz Massiah,  
MSW, RSW  
Registered Clinical Social Worker*

*And Gordon Portman - Editor  
and playwright*

Apparently lots of folks look for the word "co-dependent" on the web site. And then Michael called and asked about some of my thoughts on why so many folks in our community are so vociferous about their right to smoke in restaurants, bars, dances etc., and whether it might have something to do with self-hatred for being part of a despised group. Me being me, I started to wonder about ways to accommodate both ... and found that maybe a link between the two isn't as tenuous as some might think.

First things first. Pop psychology is full of books and articles and television discussions about co-dependency, to the point where I can often tell when people have been looking at their situation from that perspective. Couples walk into my office and say "We are co-dependent and that is the only reason we are still together" or singles might say "I am co-dependent and will never have a healthy relationship." It seems that they've fallen into the trap that lies underneath so much of that pop slash self-help stuff: yes it gives some people a place to start, a label to identify something nasty in their lives that is not working and which they don't know how to change. But for most people, it simply becomes about feeling bad for not 'doing life right': feeling bad about not living up to other people's ideals, or standards.

In other words, it would seem that co-dependency has become a sort of catch-all term to describe a relationship that is not working the way that others think it should ... and being in a place of thinking in terms of "should" isn't, in my experience, the healthiest place to be.

But is there room beyond the pop psychology approach for another perspective? What if co-dependents are people who have learned that unless they behave in certain ways, there are dire consequences? This is a way of perceiving, reacting and acting that is learned when these people are kids - trying to please parents, for example, who were simply not please-able. As they grow, these kids become

people who keep on trying to please, who become afraid to assert themselves because all that brings is more trouble, who continue to feel and behave this way in adult relationships despite the misery it brings them.

To look at it another way: when we don't have a strong sense of our "self", of our own soul, we experience ourselves through others, as a reflection of others needs and wants. This, in turn, leads to the experience of "Since we don't seem to have a self, we don't matter, only others do". And if our sense of self comes from others, it follows that our sense of safety and security depends on others as well. As a result, people who are truly co-dependent tend to believe that it's better, for example, to have a rotten relationship than none at all. This perspective actively manifests in lots of ways ... in the martyr, the rescuer, the super-busy person, etc.

Further: the common thread in all these sorts of behaviours is that lots of people who've experienced being in this position talk about not being heard. Not being listened to, not knowing what they really think or feel, they tend to be terrified of being abandoned, and are often so afraid of changing the status quo that they are immobilized. It's a fear that makes sense: if we are abandoned as a child, we will likely die. Pretty powerful motivation to please the parent who is supposed to be your safety and ensure your survival: and when you grow up with "co-dependent" needs, the fear of loss grows up with you. Eventually, in co-dependency, people learn that their needs don't matter a damn: often it's a struggle just to start learning that people might have real needs or feelings of their own, and that they are entitled to them, and that having them met as much as is possible and reasonable.

The other side of the co-dependency equation is, of course, the person who needs to be needed. It may be for reasons of wanting to feel in charge, or in control; it may be for reasons of having a self-image that rests, for its well being, on being important or essential to another person. It may be the end result of a long period of patterning and development in a relationship. But the bottom line on *this* side of the equation is, it seems, the same as that on the other side: using an unhealthy dependence on the actions/reactions/feelings of "the other person" to define the *self*.

Ultimately, co-dependency is not unique to

our relationships. But what *is* unique is the fact that, given society's continuing prejudices, in some ways "the other person" is one of the few validations of self many of us in this community can get. It's often very easy, it seems, for us to fall into the trap of finally finding safety and respect in the arms of someone of our own gender. And then, because the sense of safety is so strong, *all* our ambitions, desires, hopes, and sense of identity become placed in the way that "other person" treats you. So you do your best to please him/her, and the cycle begins.

So what, I hear you ask, is the connection with smoking?

It may be that the common link is habit, about not knowing any other way to behave. If that's the case, then the habit of co-dependency might need to be treated in the same way as any other habit. By finding something else to say "yes" to, as opposed to saying only "no" (i.e. choosing health over ill health), and by seeking out good, solid ways of changing behaviour.

It may also be that the actions of individuals in a co-dependent relationship are similar, in some ways, to the actions of those who smoke, in that such behaviours are ways of managing anxiety and/or depression and/or insecurity. Under those circumstances, then, the process becomes about working *through* the anxiety and, through that, eliminating the behaviours.

But ultimately, in all these scenarios it may also be that the denial of a healthy *emotional* being that often exists in co-dependent relationships comes from the same source as the denial of a healthy *physical* being (i.e. the drive to smoke). That source might well be an undefined or undeveloped sense of self worth. In that sense, perhaps Michael is on to something with his theory about our insistence upon our right to smoke being connected to self-hatred. Which means that we have to find ways to grow past all the negative messages we send ourselves, re-orient our focus onto our good qualities and our strengths, and move into a place where emotional and physical self-respect and self-reverence become our real definers.

**(The opinions in this article are those of the authors alone and are not intended to substitute for consultation with a qualified, accountable professional.)**



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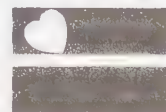
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# Syphilis

Continued from page 21

secondary symptoms disappear. If the infected person has not received treatment, he/she still has syphilis even though there are no signs or symptoms. The bacterium remains in the body and begins to damage the internal organs, including the brain, nerves, eyes, heart, blood vessels, liver, bones, and joints. In about one-third of untreated persons, this internal damage shows up many years later in the late, or tertiary, stage of syphilis.

Late stage signs and symptoms include not being able to coordinate muscle movements, paralysis, no longer feeling pain, gradual blindness, dementia (madness) or other personality changes, impotency, shooting pains, blockage or ballooning of the heart vessels, tumors or

“gummas” on the skin, bones, liver, or other organs, severe pain in the belly, repeated vomiting, damage to knee joints, and deep sores on the soles of the feet or toes. This damage may be serious enough to cause death.

## *Syphilis and HIV.*

It is now known that the genital sores caused by syphilis in adults also make it easier to transmit and acquire HIV infection sexually. **There is a 2- to 5-fold increased risk of acquiring HIV infection when syphilis is present.**

## *Treatment for Syphilis.*

Early treatment for syphilis, that is treatment that has taken place within the first year, is a single dose shot of penicillin. More doses are needed to cure someone who has had it for longer than a year. There are no home remedies or over-the-counter drugs that cure syphilis.

Penicillin treatment will kill the syphilis bacterium and prevent further damage, but it will not repair any damage already done. Persons who receive syphilis treatment must abstain from sexual contact with new partners until the syphilis sores are completely healed. Persons with syphilis must notify their sex partners so that they also can receive treatment

Having syphilis once does not protect an individual from getting it again. The antibodies used to combat syphilis only last a short time after the infection has been cured. Further infection is possible if protection is not used.

## *How can people protect themselves from Syphilis and HIV?*

Health Promoters and educators have been advocating on behalf of condom use for many years.

While we have stated that vulnerability to HIV transmission is low in oral sex, we are seeing that the incidence of syphilis transmission remains a danger, as with other STDs. If you and your partner are monogamous and are not having sex with anyone else, then there isn't a chance of either syphilis or HIV transmission. If, however, you and/or your partner are engaging, sexually, with multiple partners, it is recommended that you take the precaution of wearing a condom, even for oral sex. Protect your loved ones, protect yourself.

For more information on the recent outbreak of syphilis, and the increased vulnerability to HIV transmission, please contact Robert at HIV Edmonton at (780) 488-5742, or by email at [health@hivedmonton.com](mailto:health@hivedmonton.com).

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# My Monthly Neurosis



By Rob Browatzke

The way this issue fell, you'll luckily avoid a New Years Eve-esque reflective piece on all the things that made me neurotic in 2000. Instead, with the way this

issue fell, you'll get a Valentine's Day-esque look at love, sex, and all the stages of mental and physical attraction in between.

Two people meet at the bar. There's eye contact; there's shy smiles. There's attraction. That's Step #1. It's the "he's cute, wouldn't mind getting to know him better, and look at his butt" phase. Now, for people other than me, the next step would probably be initiating conversation. I pretty much suck at that so I usually just peer at the guy through the bottom of a shooter glass.

So these two strangers talk. If the attraction is mutual, maybe they do a little dance, make a little love. If not, maybe they have enough in common that they get to be friends. Either way, a new

relationship forms. Sometimes, especially with those one-sided situations, that attraction becomes a crush. That's always awkward, if the friendship is growing, because there's a sexual tension that can surface in moments of weakness. But a crush is essentially innocent. It's when that evolves into infatuation that problems tend to occur.

Infatuation is a tricky one to define. There's all this physical attraction, and at the same time, there's this friendship that has all this emotional involvement, so the mix of the body and the heart can easily lead people to mistake infatuation for love. Nothing can be as destructive for a friendship than that moment of confession. "I love you", while always nice to hear, can send a person reeling. Of course, there's always the possibility that the feelings are reciprocated, and it's that remote chance that causes people to take the plunge. Nothing is better than two best friends falling in love.

Once you've hit that love plateau, that's pretty much the height of emotional involvement with another person. As time goes on, that love can deepen and grow and become something so intense, so omnipresent that words fail to describe it. The connection of two hearts at the most primal level.

Still, even with the emotional journey above, there's the reverse side of the coin. Relationships are essentially emotional things, but it's the physical side that heightens the intensity, at first anyway. From that moment of initial attraction, to that

first kiss, through the longing-filled glances to a tentative touch, right into wild, crazed, Dionysian passion. It's when love at its deepest is combined with passion at its hottest that two people really become one.

So what happens if you only have one? You've got that special someone with whom you're linked mentally, emotionally, mystically, but there's just not the ZING of passion. Or you've got that person with all the fire and chemistry, but there's just a cold emotional void. Or, what if you have both, but in two people, and you can't help but wonder what life would be like if only those two people could be combined in the same person.

The human body is capable of having sexual relationships with multiple partners. The human heart is capable of unlimited love, so conceivably, it too could have emotional relationships with multiple partners. The human spirit is capable of anything. What's the end result then? Well, my blind-leading-the-blind neurotic advice for you on this Valentine's Day is this: Everyone has in their life a diverse group of people - friends, lovers, soul mates. Rather than analyzing what level of relationship is morally right or socially acceptable, look instead at what is emotionally right for you.

Be honest with yourself, be honest with your "others", and make every relationship in your life as deep, as pure, as real as you can. Can we ever know where the heart truly leads us? Yes. But only if we listen.

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# Listen to Your Heart

Two people got together about six years ago and have one common thread that runs throughout their music. It comprises Compassion, Respect, Forgiveness and Being Kind to others. Anael and Bradfield have combined their talents



to put some of the most interesting music heard in years. Now on their fourth CD, they work out of Montreal and have offered selections from their latest release on MP3.COM. We have them now listed on two of our five Internet Radio Stations from Times .10 Magazine.

**Anael is the female lead singer who puts her heart into every word.**

She works well with Bradfield who works with her in composition of words and music. In an interview with them,

Bradfield stated, "We aspire to dissolve linguistic, religious and cultural barriers that have enchained us as long as we can remember." To give you an example of what he is talking about, listen to the words of Listen to Your Heart. "...It holds the truth and is the spark, lighting a union with the stars... ten thousand candles in the dark." Anael is truly a believer in music as a means of communication and she says "My goal in life is to materialize Peace on Earth and our albums are my little drop of water in the Ocean of Life." You can hear that in her voice on every song although the one that got me to listen over and over again was Ask Me Like a Song. The lyrics, music and voice harmonize into one message, "...Sweet and gently rhyming, with heart and words

aligning as one, if you'd only ask me as a song, truth would seem closer..."

There is a hint of Enya in their music, although once you have listened, you will notice that they go much further in composition and voice. As Bradfield stated in the interview, "...the most interesting things happening in our world at the moment are of a transcendental nature, the unexplained, our spiritual quests..."

In a recent article, the writer wrote the following, "Through her music and lyrics, Anael aspires to raise global consciousness and promote the concept of caring more for others than for ourselves. She believes that when we can all apply this, no one will lack for

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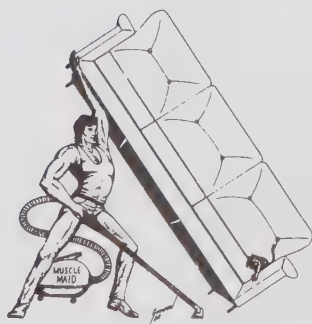
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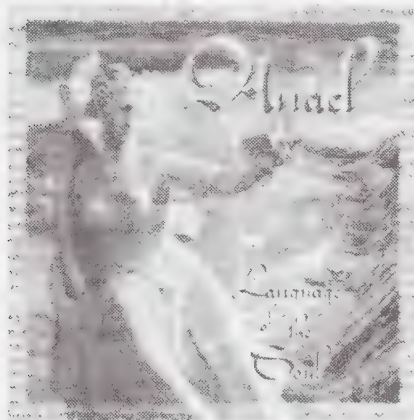
anything. Even in times of hardship, Anael has truly lived and breathed this philosophy. She cannot bear, or even tolerate, injustice and will

words and states quite simply with a special uniqueness, "Apparently when Princess Diana left us, there was such a simultaneous outpouring of love that we shifted an energy pattern that had been in place since the dawn of humanity. We are now upon a new path. We have learned from past errors. We are knocking at the gate..."

Go to MP3.COM and find out for yourself just how lush and wonderful

the music is to the tuned ear. You will find truth in the lyrics and the voice. "I've found it in the stars and the sun... in a forest that is magically one..."

fight vigorously to resolve it. Truly a breath of fresh air in these tumultuous times." Bradfield has a way with



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**Now I lay me down to sleep,  
 My heart in pieces at her feet.  
 I loved her so much,  
 And often longed for her touch.**

**I loved her long,  
 I loved her true.  
 I sound like a country song,  
 What am I to do?  
 She was my only one,  
 Yet she had another.  
 Was I just for fun?**

**The love we had was strong.  
 What did I do wrong?  
 Does it take a man to make her  
 happy?  
 Someone her kids can call  
 pappy?  
 I guess its over now for good,  
 Maybe it's just hurting like it  
 should.**

**I need to let go now,  
 But I just don't know how.  
 She was my life, my love,  
 And I was her little turtledove.  
 It is over now, I can see it's  
 true.  
 Can someone please tell me  
 what to do?**

(submitted without name)



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**Pride Calgary 2001:**

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Pride Parade - Sunday, June 10<sup>th</sup>

Pride Street Fair - Sunday, June  
10<sup>th</sup>

Pride Dance 2001 - Saturday, June  
16<sup>th</sup>

Pride Business Fair and Awards  
Luncheon - date and program to be  
announced

Pride Symposium 2001 - date and  
program to be announced  
Pride Celebrates The Arts - visual,  
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various locations (art galleries,  
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Board of Directors - meets 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Tuesday of every month unless  
otherwise noted (January 9<sup>th</sup>;  
February 13<sup>th</sup>; March 13<sup>th</sup>; April  
10<sup>th</sup>; May 8<sup>th</sup>; May 29<sup>th</sup>; June 19<sup>th</sup>).

Pride Calgary SUMMIT - meets on  
the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the 2<sup>nd</sup> month of  
each quarter — unless otherwise  
noted (February 5<sup>th</sup>, May 7<sup>th</sup>,  
September 10<sup>th</sup>, November 5<sup>th</sup>). A  
Summit is a meeting hosted by Pride  
Calgary at which Pride Calgary  
reports to our community  
associations, social agencies, sports  
clubs, arts groups, Calgary Police  
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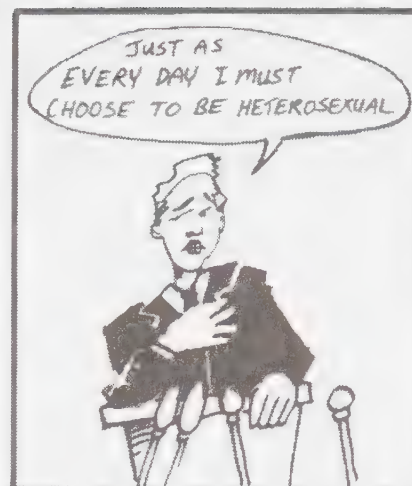
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## Out At Last by Mike Brown



## AGAPE

A Sexual Orientation and Schooling Focus Group in the Faculty of Education at the University of Alberta

**“Agape is disinterested love.. Agape does not begin by discriminating between worthy and unworthy people, or any quality people possess. It begins by loving others for their sakes. . It**

**springs from the need of the other person.”**

**Martin Luther King, Jr. (1958)**

AGAPE is a new focus group set up to consider issues in relation to sexual orientation and schooling. It is designed to meet the needs of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, and staff in the Faculty of Education. We also invite practicing teachers or educational professionals in the local community to attend our meetings.

Straight allies are also welcome.

The focus group will provide opportunities for members to:

- \* Share and discuss narratives of schooling
- \* Address issues that concern job searches and working in schools
- \* Examines policies and practices in schools, districts, and teachers' associations/federations
- \* Provide space to network and socialize in a welcoming and supportive setting
- \* And yes, we can have a

potluck or two as well!

Date: Every Thursday during the Winter School Term (except Feb.22/01)

Time: 5:00 - 6:00 PM

Location: Faculty of Education, University of Alberta, Student Lounge 4-110C, Education North Building

If you have a question, please email Dr. André Grace at [andre.grace@ualberta.ca](mailto:andre.grace@ualberta.ca) or Kris Wells at [wellsk@icrossroads.com](mailto:wellsk@icrossroads.com).



# Tax Planning for 2000 and Beyond

A lot of tax changes happened in 2000 - most of them for the better. In this article, I will highlight a few of the recent changes that may have an impact on some readers and how they could affect how you manage your tax and financial affairs.

## Federal Tax Credits

Several tax credits, including the disability credit, the caregiver credit and the education tax credit will be increased in 2001. The current amounts and the amounts for 2001 are as follows:

	2000	2001
Disability credit amount	4,293	6,000
Caregiver credit amount	2,356	3,500
Education (per month - full time student)	200	400
(per month - part time student)	60	120

While most people are aware of these credits and whether they qualify, I have encountered several people looking after elderly or disabled relatives who qualify for the caregiver credit, but who were not aware of this tax credit. In addition, there have been periodic minor changes to the rules for the disability tax credit. For instance, after October 17, 2000, speech language pathologists can certify severe and prolonged speech impairments for the purpose of this tax credit.

## Common Law Partners

For 2001, same-sex partners will be considered common law partners for tax purposes if, during the year, they are living together in a conjugal relationship for a continuous period of at least one-year. For 2000, same-sex partners that meet this condition may choose to be treated as common law partners for tax purposes. If you are considered common law partners, you may be entitled to claim a spousal/common law partner credit amount if your partner is low income. As there may be some other advantages or disadvantages to filing as common law partners, anyone considering this for 2000 may want to consult a professional advisor to see if this is beneficial overall.

## Capital Gains

Capital gains often arise from the sale of property or investments (ex. stocks or certain mutual funds). In its October 18, 2000 mini budget, the federal government announced that the portion of capital gains that would have been included in net income would be reduced to 50% (effective for capital gains realized after October 17, 2000). Previously, the portion was 66 2/3% (this was reduced from 75% effective February 28, 2000). For example, if on October 18, 2000 you sold an investment for \$150 that originally cost \$50, your capital gain would be \$100. Of that \$100, only \$50 would be included in your net income. On that \$50 you would pay tax at the tax rate that applied to you (from approximately 25% to 44% depending on your level of income). From a tax point of view, there is now a fairly significant advantage to choosing investments, outside of your RRSP, that generate capital gains instead of interest income. Of course taxes are not the only thing

to be considered. For instance, from an investment perspective, investments that have the potential to generate capital gains often have more risk - this should also be considered and discussed with your investment advisor. Also, with all the changes in rates for capital gains, the 2000 tax calculations for people who have capital gains or losses in different parts of the year will be more complex and you may want to consult a professional advisor.

## Employment Equity

In 2000, many current and former federal public servants received pay equity settlements. All payments are taxable and the recipients must report this income on their 2000 income tax returns. While all recipients likely have already had some tax withheld on these payments, former government workers and pensioners will generally have had tax withheld at a low rate. If these individuals have other employment or pension income,

they may have to pay additional tax when they file their 2000 personal tax returns.

One strategy those recipients 69 or under in 2001, who may have to pay additional tax, may want to consider is contributing to their Registered Retirement Savings Plans (depending on their RRSP contribution limits for 2000). Depending on the amount contributed to an RRSP this may reduce or offset tax on the employment equity payments. The RRSP contribution would need to be made on or before March 1, 2001, to be deductible for 2000.

*David Ushko is a Chartered Accountant and provides a variety of accounting and tax services to individuals and owner managed businesses. This information is of a general nature and should not be relied on for specific situations. For specific advice or information please consult a professional advisor.*



**Tuesday February 13,  
2001**

**At: Orlando Books  
Bloomsbury Room  
(Upstairs)  
10123 Whyte Avenue**

**Time: 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm**

**Light refreshments  
provided  
Bring business cards  
Meet new people**



## February 2001

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>28</b> Lambda Christian Community Church 7 - 8:45 PM Freedom M.C. Church 7:15 - 8:45 PM Making Waves Swim Club 8 - 9:30 PM	<b>29</b> Volleyball Intermediate League 6 - 8 PM Womyn's Volleyball League 7 - 9 PM	<b>30</b> OUTReach 5 - 6 PM Volleyball Recreation League 6 - 8 PM	<b>31</b> Gay Men's Coffee Evening 7:30 - 10 PM Imperial Sovereign Court 8 - 10 PM	<b>1</b> Womospace 7 - 9 PM Making Waves Swim Club 8:30 - 9:30 PM Womospace 9 - 11 PM	<b>2</b> O2 Curling 6 - 8 PM Orlando Books Presents 7:30 - 9 PM	<b>3</b> Northern Titans Bowling 4:45 - 7 PM Orlando Books Presents 7 - 8:30 PM Youth Understanding Youth 7 - 9 PM Northern Chaps 9 - midnight
<b>4</b> Lambda Christian Community Church 7 - 8:45 PM Freedom M.C. Church 7:15 - 8:45 PM Making Waves Swim Club 8 - 9:30 PM	<b>5</b> Volleyball Intermediate League 6 - 8 PM Womyn's Volleyball League 7 - 9 PM Womospace Board Meeting 7:30 - 9 PM	<b>6</b> OUTReach 5 - 6 PM Volleyball Recreation League 6 - 8 PM	<b>7</b> Gay Men's Coffee Evening 7:30 - 10 PM	<b>8</b> Making Waves Swim Club 8:30 - 9:30 PM Womospace 11 - midnight	<b>9</b> O2 Curling 6 - 8 PM Orlando Books Presents 7:30 - 9 PM	<b>10</b> Northern Titans Bowling 4:45 - 7 PM Youth Understanding Youth 7 - 9 PM Edmonton Vocal Minority 8 - 10 PM ARGRA Dance 8:30 - midnight
<b>11</b> Prime Timers 3 - 5 PM Lambda Christian Community Church 7 - 8:45 PM Freedom M.C. Church 7:15 - 8:45 PM Making Waves Swim Club 8 - 9:30 PM	<b>12</b> Volleyball Intermediate League 6 - 8 PM Womyn's Volleyball League 7 - 9 PM	<b>13</b> OUTReach 5 - 6 PM Volleyball Recreation League 6 - 8 PM Lesbian Wine Tasters Group 7 - 9 PM	<b>14</b> Valentine's Day Gay Men's Coffee Evening 7:30 - 10 PM	<b>15</b> Womospace 7:30 - 9:30 PM Making Waves Swim Club 8:30 - 9:30 PM	<b>16</b> O2 Curling 6 - 8 PM Orlando Books Presents 7:30 - 9 PM	<b>17</b> Northern Titans Bowling 4:45 - 7 PM Youth Understanding Youth 7 - 9 PM Northern Chaps 9 - midnight Womospace Dance 9 - midnight
<b>18</b> Lambda Christian Community Church 7 - 8:45 PM Freedom M.C. Church 7:15 - 8:45 PM Making Waves Swim Club 8 - 9:30 PM	<b>19</b> Alberta Family Day Holiday Volleyball Intermediate League 6 - 8 PM Womyn's Volleyball League 7 - 9 PM	<b>20</b> Times .10 Deadline OUTReach 5 - 6 PM Volleyball Recreation League 6 - 8 PM	<b>21</b> Gay Men's Coffee Evening 7:30 - 10 PM	<b>22</b> Making Waves Swim Club 8:30 - 9:30 PM	<b>23</b> O2 Curling 6 - 8 PM Orlando Books Presents 7:30 - 9 PM	<b>24</b> Northern Titans Bowling 4:45 - 7 PM Youth Understanding Youth 7 - 9 PM
<b>25</b> Womospace Winter Fun 1 - 4 PM Lambda Christian Community Church 7 - 8:45 PM Freedom M.C. Church 7:15 - 8:45 PM Making Waves Swim Club 8 - 9:30 PM	<b>26</b> Volleyball Intermediate League 6 - 8 PM Womyn's Volleyball League 7 - 9 PM	<b>27</b> OUTReach 5 - 6 PM Volleyball Recreation League 6 - 8 PM	<b>28</b> Gay Men's Coffee Evening 7:30 - 10 PM Imperial Sovereign Court 8 - 10 PM	<b>1</b> Making Waves Swim Club 8:30 - 9:30 PM	<b>2</b> O2 Curling 6 - 8 PM Orlando Books Presents 7:30 - 9 PM	<b>3</b> Northern Titans Bowling 4:45 - 7 PM Youth Understanding Youth 7 - 9 PM Northern Chaps 9 - midnight
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday



# You and Your Funny Bone..:)

## The Test

Joe, a college student, was taking a course in ornithology, the study of birds. The night before the biggest test of the semester, Joe spent all night studying. He had the textbook nearly memorized. He knew his class notes backward and forward. Joe was ready.

The morning of the test, Joe entered the auditorium and took a seat in the front row. On the table in the front was a row of ten stuffed birds. Each bird had a sack covering its body, and only the legs were showing. When class started, the professor announced that the students were to identify each bird by looking at its legs and give its common name, species, habitat, mating habits, etc.

Joe looked at each of the birds' legs. They all looked the same to him. He started to get angry. He had stayed up all night studying for this test and now he had to identify birds by their LEGS? The more he thought about the situation, the angrier he got. Finally he reached his boiling point. He stood up, marched up to the professor's desk, crumpled up his exam paper and threw it on the desk.

"What a ridiculous test!" he told the Prof. "How could anyone tell the difference between these birds by looking at their legs? This exam is the biggest rip-off I've ever seen!" With that, Joe turned and stormed toward the exit. The professor was a bit shocked, and it took him a moment to regain his composure. Then, just as Joe was

about to walk out the door, the Prof. shouted out, "Wait a minute, young man, what's your name?" Joe turned around, pulled up his pant legs and hollered, "You tell me, professor! You tell me!"

## With friends like that...

A group of friends went deer hunting and paired off in twos for the day. That night one of the hunters returned alone, staggering under the weight of an eight point buck. "Where's Henry?" "Henry had a stroke of some kind. He's a couple of miles back up the trail." "You left Henry laying out there and carried the deer back!?" "A tough call," nodded the hunter, "but I figured no one is going to steal Henry."

## You're Fishing

Three blondes are sitting by the side of a river holding fishing poles with the lines in the water. A Game Warden comes up behind them, taps one of them on the shoulder and says, "Excuse me, ladies, I'd like to see your fishing licenses." "We don't have any." replied the first blonde. "Well, if you're going to fish, you need fishing licenses," said the Game Warden.

"But officer," replied the second blonde, "we aren't fishing. We all have magnets at the end of our lines and we're collecting debris off the bottom of the river." The Game Warden lifted up all the lines and, sure enough, there were horseshoe magnets tied on the end of each line. "Well, I know of no law against it," said the Game

Warden, "take all the debris you want." And with that, the Game Warden left.

As soon as the Game Warden was out of sight, the three blondes started laughing hysterically. "What a dumb Fish Cop," the second blonde said to the other two, "doesn't he know there are steelhead in this river?!"

## Sherlock Holmes

Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson went on a camping trip. After a good meal and a bottle of wine, they lay down for the night, and went to sleep. Some hours later, Holmes awoke and nudged his faithful friend. "Watson, look up at the sky and tell me what you see."

Watson replied, "I see millions and millions of stars." "What does that tell you?"

Watson pondered for a minute. "Astronomically, it tells me that there are millions of galaxies and potentially billions of planets. Astrologically, I observe that Saturn is in Leo. Horologically, I deduce that the time is approximately a quarter past three. Theologically, I can see that God is all-powerful and that we are small and insignificant. Meteorologically, I suspect that we will have a beautiful day tomorrow. What does it tell you?"

Holmes was silent for a minute, then spoke. "Watson, you idiot. Someone has stolen our tent."

## Pancakes



Jane was making pancakes for breakfast for her two sons, Bobby, age seven, and Ryan, age five. The boys got in a terrific argument over who was going to get the first pancakes. It grew loud and rowdy. Jane saw this as a teaching opportunity, so she quieted the boys and said, "Now boys, do you know what Jesus would do? He would say, "Give the first pancakes to others." The boys listened carefully as she spoke.

Bobby turned to Ryan and said: "Ryan you be Jesus."

### 50th Anniversary

While enjoying an Early morning breakfast in a northern Arizona café, four elderly ranchers were discussing everything from cattle, horses, and weather to how things used to be in the "good old days". Eventually the conversation moved on to their spouses. One gentleman turned to the fellow on his right and asked, "Roy, aren't you and your bride celebrating your 50th wedding anniversary soon?" "Yup, we sure are," Roy replied. "Well, are you gonna do anything special to celebrate?" another man asked.

The old gentleman pondered this for a moment, then replied, "For our 25th anniversary, I took Bea to Tucson. Maybe for our 50th, I'll go down there and get her."

### Court Room Humor

A carpenter was giving evidence about an accident he had witnessed. The judge asked him how far away he was from the accident.

The carpenter replied "twenty-seven feet, six and one half inches". "What? How come you are so sure of that distance?" asked the judge. "Well, I knew some idiot would ask me, so I measured it!" replied the carpenter.

### Nostradamus' Prediction

In 1555, Nostradamus wrote: "Come the millennium, month 12, In the home of greatest power, The village idiot will come forth to be acclaimed the leader"

His prophecy has come true.....

George Bush Jr. speaks out.... "The vast majority of our imports come from outside the country."

"Republicans

understand the importance of bondage between a mother and child."

"Mars is essentially in the same orbit...Mars is somewhat the same distance from the Sun, which is very important. We have seen pictures where there are canals, we believe, and water. If there is water, that means there is oxygen. If oxygen, that means we can breathe."

"I believe we are on an irreversible trend toward more freedom and democracy - but that could change."

"The future will be better tomorrow."

"A low voter turnout is an indication of fewer people going to the polls."

"For NASA, space is still a high priority."

"[It's] time for the human race to enter the solar system."

### Oops

An escaped convict, imprisoned for 1st degree murder, had spent years of his life sentence in prison. While on the run, he broke into a house and tied up a young couple who had been sleeping in the bedroom. He tied the

man to a chair on one side of the room and his wife on the bed. He got on the bed right over the woman, and it appeared he was kissing her neck.

Suddenly he got up and left the room. As soon as possible the husband made his way across the room to his bride, his chair in tow, and whispered, "Honey, this guy hasn't seen a woman in years. I saw him kissing on your neck and then he left in a hurry. Just cooperate and do anything he wants. If he wants to have sex with you, just go along with it and pretend you like it. Whatever you do don't fight him or make him mad. Our lives depend on it!. Be strong and I love you."

After spitting out the gag in her mouth, the half naked wife says: "Dear, I'm so relieved you feel that way. You're right, he hasn't been a woman in years, but he wasn't kissing my neck... He was whispering in my ear. He said he thinks you're really cute and asked if we kept the Vaseline in the bathroom. Be strong and I love you, too."

---

[www.times10.org](http://www.times10.org)



# Becoming Ourselves

## Help Your Selves



*By Shawn Mooney*

I used to be addicted to self-help books. I sought healing and well being through John Bradshaw or Louise Hay or *A Course In Miracles* or *Growing Up Gay In A Dysfunctional Family*. The quest proved not all that self-helpful. The thing I was seeking was a brand-new me.

I devoured these texts hungrily: me, the reader, a sucking blank slate. I attempted—and always failed—to fashion an entirely new self through the wisdom dispensed in these books. I swallowed them whole, adhering fanatically—albeit temporarily—to each new cure. The words of wisdom became an undigested lump of not self inside me.

I thought that all I had to do was be who these wise writers said I should. Then I would be healed; then I would be happy.

Further experience deepened my awareness; Gestalt Therapy's 'paradoxical theory of change' was an eye-opener. The principle is this: authentic change comes not when I attempt to be someone or something I'm not, but through becoming fully who and what I am. Change and growth occurs naturally when I accept and inhabit myself. An empowering slogan of the recovery movement, too, was enlightening: "Take what you need, and leave the rest." These were invitations for me: encouragement to *chew*.

Push came to shove in my life; through a series of crises I chose deeper healing paths: less about self-improvement and more about self-expression. I learned how to cry and taste anger, again; I experimented with what it meant to be truly, fabulously vulnerable to other people. As I embraced the icky feelings, neurotic knots and relationship foibles I'd long sought to eradicate, creativity and healing began to sprout.

As I risked a fuller identification with my actual, visceral states, I began to read with curiosity rather than

desperation. I began to assimilate that which *fit* into my life's unfolding story. Awareness fosters acceptance; acceptance opens up inventive, healing possibilities.

This process of 'chewing' rather than 'swallowing whole' spread into other points of contact with the world. Steeped in what I have to offer and what I need, I can be less intimidated or defensive in relationships. I become teachable; receptivity signifies abundance rather than lack.

When I identify completely with what I'm thinking and feeling and remembering and avoiding, energy frees up within. Possibilities emerge spontaneously. Chewable nuggets of insight from books and therapy and friends and lovers and family get in, mediated through my shape-shifting self.

Self-invention and self-awareness are two sides of life's enigmatic coin: both processes hinge on authentic contact with ideas and with real-live people. Selfhood might just be a fluid process, a fabulous flux. You and I: sparks of possibility ignited within and between us.

*(Shawn Mooney is a*

*psychotherapist in private practice in Edmonton. You can reach Shawn at 988-2741, [mooneys@telusplanet.net](mailto:mooneys@telusplanet.net), or on the Web at [www.telusplanet.net/public/mooneys](http://www.telusplanet.net/public/mooneys).)*

## Edmonton

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## Week

## Parade

## Saturday

## June 16th

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MORE Features**

**Correction:**

Contrary to references made in previous ads, Georgia Baths does not have a "darkroom". Georgia Baths neither promotes nor condones the use of "darkrooms" and regrets the error.

## Get Ready to Two- Step at The Rodeo!

Last chance to learn how to shake your spurs before the Canadian Rockies International Rodeo! Don't miss out on your chance to swing around the floor with confidence!

Fantastic and friendly professional instructors Mike & Wendy are returning to teach you the basics of country-dance and help you become more comfortable on a dance floor. Dancers at all levels are invited – come on out and learn to dance in a supportive environment. Lessons will be 1 ½ hours, start at 7:30 p.m. and run for 8 consecutive Tuesdays. They will be held at the Bridgeland Riverside Community Centre.

Details are as follows:

- When: Tuesdays, January 30 – March 20, 2001 @ 7:30 PM

- Where: Bridgeland Riverside Community Centre at 919 McDougall Road NE (close to the old General Hospital site just off Memorial Drive)

- Cost: Cost is \$35 for members, and \$40 for non-members payable on the first night

- Drop-ins will be allowed for \$5 the first two lessons only.

- What you need to bring: No additional items are required – just you!

How to register: Email Jamie Cumberland at [jcumberland@enerlec.com](mailto:jcumberland@enerlec.com) or

call 403.620.0589.

New and returning dancers are welcome. See you there!

### UPCOMING EVENTS

A "Romantic Rendezvous"  
Courtesy of ARGRA

Make sure you make plans to attend the February dance (February 10) as we have a fantastic "Romantic Rendezvous" giveaway package available to be won. Perfect for couples that are either just starting out or well established, or a great treat for singles, this package includes getaway accommodations and fabulous prizes to make your getaway special. Bring your sweetheart (or meet one there!) and dance the night away!

Don't forget about the next few upcoming ARGRA dances as well where everyone can get down and party! The next dances after February 10 are March 10 and April 28 at 7:30 at Victoria Park Community Centre (1302 6 Street SE).

Boots, Buckles,  
Breaststrokes, and Bubbles?

Be sure to join us in Edmonton on March 31, 2001 when ARGRA will be co-hosting a fundraising dance with Making Waves, the Edmonton gay swim club. The dance will be held at the Hellenic Club. More details will be available shortly on [www.arga.org](http://www.arga.org). Edmonton and area folks are ready to kick up their fins ARGRA style!

Continued on page 39





Marlow  
&  
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back on your life  
you'll regret the  
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# Rodeo

Continued from page 37

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plans now for  
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annual  
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International  
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With Chris  
Cummings



featured on Friday night at the Wild Rose Branding Party and two full days of rough and tumble rodeo action, this will be the event of the year. Check out our Website at [www.argra.org](http://www.argra.org) for updated information. We can't wait to see you there!

## Volunteer Opportunity Entertainment Coordinator

If you are interested in helping coordinate the entertainment for Rodeo weekend (June 29-July 1)

and have contacts with local and out-of-town entertainers, we want you! Please email Ashley Anderson (Director, Public Relations) at [ashley\\_yc@hotmail.com](mailto:ashley_yc@hotmail.com) to express your interest. Only a small time commitment is required up until the Rodeo, when all the action takes place, and help is available.

If you have any interest in joining the organizing committee, or helping out in any area, please let us know. All Rodeo committee meetings are open to members and guests and if you are interested in helping us put on the best Rodeo ever, please feel free to join us. The next

Committee meetings are on February 12 and March 12 at the Old Y, 2nd Floor Boardroom at 7:00. All are welcome.

## Membership Renewals

Don't forget that everyone's membership comes up for renewal in May. Renewals can be made at any dance at the ARGRA table. Membership has its privileges!

If you have any questions, visit the ARGRA Website at [www.argra.org](http://www.argra.org) or email Ashley Anderson, Director of Public Relations at [ashley\\_yc@hotmail.com](mailto:ashley_yc@hotmail.com) or call 403 620 0589.

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# The Robbie Kirkland Story

"I may be gone, but I hope I'm not forgotten. Remember me."  
By Robbie Kirkland

On Jan. 2, 1997, my darling 14-year-old son, Robbie Kirkland committed suicide after a 4-year struggle to accept and find peace with his homosexuality.

Our family loved, supported, and accepted him but could not protect him from the rejection and harassment he experienced at his Catholic schools or his overall perception of how

society and religion view homosexuality.

Robbie, my only son, was a very special and loving person. He was kind and sensitive with a witty sense of humor. He loved writing and had dreams of being a writer.

At an early age Robbie was teased and harassed because he was noticeably different from the other boys.

Robbie was soft spoken, gentle, creative, and disliked sports. Robbie made many efforts to fit in with the other boys such as participating in

sports and pretending to have crushes on girls. It wasn't enough. He was still perceived as gay and encountered teasing and harassment, usually out of the teacher's view. Over a period of time, the effects of homophobia, he encountered at school, left him feeling ashamed, isolated, and insecure. He was not happy to be gay, knowing how much his Catholic schoolmates, society, and the Catholic doctrine rejected homosexuality.

The Internet played both a positive and a negative role in Robbie's pained life. I have very mixed and bittersweet feelings towards the Internet. Overall, I would say that it was more of a positive resource for Robbie than a negative, despite the dangers he encountered. When we

signed on to AOL in Jan. of 1996, I year before his suicide, he was ecstatic. We did

not yet know that he was gay. We warned him of the many dangers on line such as sexual predators and pornographic sites, and he reassured us that he was too smart for something like that and would use extreme caution on line. Since he had always been very responsible and trustworthy we did not closely monitor him. His joy and eagerness to go on line warmed my heart. He said that he was talking to friends in teen chat rooms, playing games, and obtaining information for schoolwork. We restricted his time online because AOL was charging

an hourly rate in those days. When the first bill arrived we were shocked to see how much he had disobeyed us. He apologized, saying how easy it was to lose track of time and to accumulate time waiting for sites to download and writing email. We restricted and supervised his time more closely. During the second month of on line service, my husband found some files of gay pornography, which Robbie tearfully apologized for telling us that someone threatened to blackmail him if he did not save the pictures for him. He was very frightened and sincere. We asked him if he was gay and reassured him of our love, support, and acceptance. He vehemently denied it, repeating that he only had the pictures because he was afraid



(Lauda, Robbie (14), Alexandra & Danielle  
Confirmation Day May 1996 Robbie's sisters.

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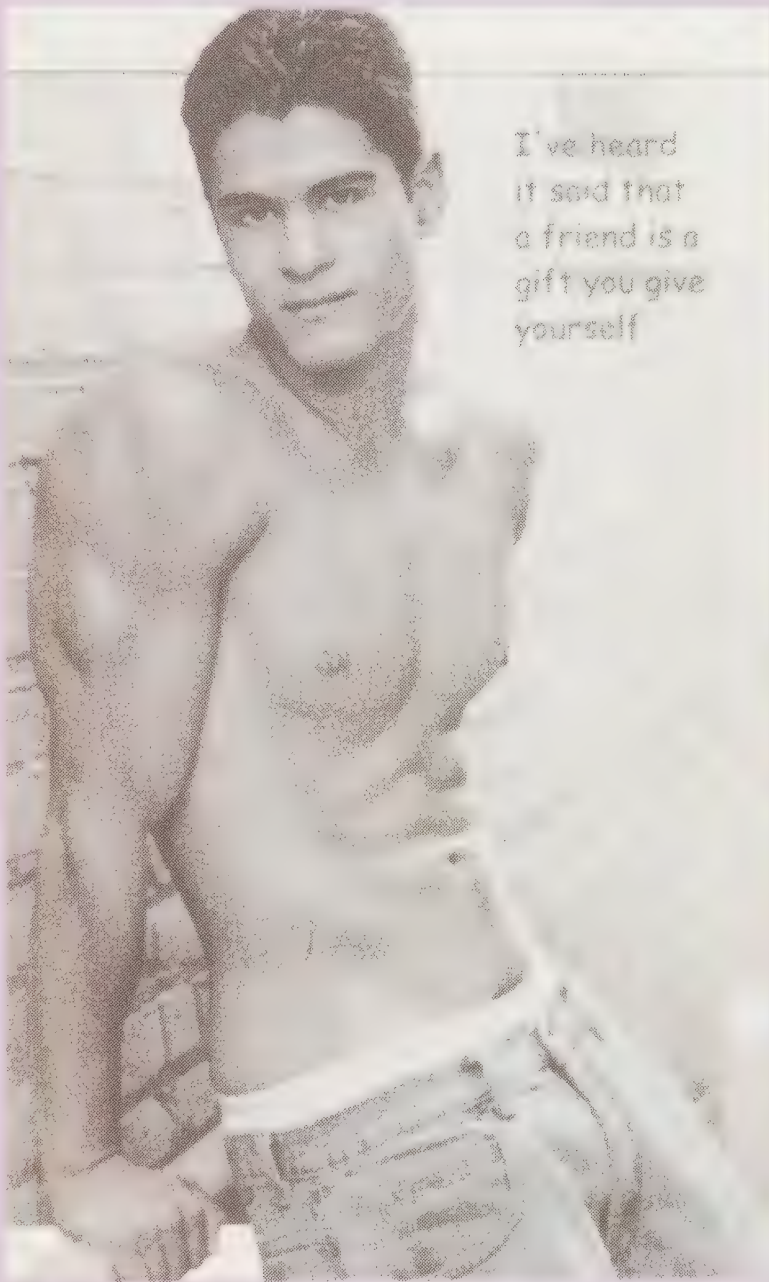
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of this man's threats. We believed him, although we did still suspect that he might be gay. A few weeks later, he ran away from our Cleveland home to Chicago, by bus, to meet a man he had befriended on line. This was so uncharacteristic of him because he was not street smart and had been protected and sheltered all of his life. When I realized that he was gone,

I had visions of him dead or forced into a life of teen prostitution or pornography. I just knew that he went to someone he had met on line. When he arrived in Chicago, he got scared and realized that he had made a mistake. A homeless man helped him find a policeman to turn himself in. I was called at 3AM after what I thought was the worst day of my entire life, little did I know what the future held. I was relieved and thankful to God to hear that Robbie was safe. We found this person's pager number with Robbie's belongings. His father, who is an FBI agent, investigated the number but it was not working. We immediately took Robbie to a counselor, who with Robbie's permission, confirmed our suspicions that he was gay.

Once again we reassured him of our love, support, and acceptance. We, of course, canceled our AOL account.

We had found a suicide note while he was gone. Around the time we found the gay porno pictures, he had attempted suicide by taking a bottle of Tylenol, which he vomited a few hours later. In the note he wrote "I fear for my life" and "I fear on line." I believe this is a reference to the man blackmailing him and other sexual predators that he encountered on line. In the ensuing last 9 months of Robbie's life, he would make a few successful attempts to go back on line without our permission or knowledge. It was obvious that despite his negative experiences on line, he found many positive resources through the Internet.

The Internet was a very important lifeline for Robbie. Because he was so closeted with our family and his friends, it provided him a safe place to be out and meet others like him. What a heartwarming feeling it must have been for him to connect with other teens that were gay. Due to being closeted, he did not know that there were other teens experiencing the same range of emotions as him. On line he also found gay websites, gay chat rooms, and a wealth of gay related resources. After his death, I met several gay males who had

**Continued on page 43**



# Community Fun makes for Success!





# Robbie Kirkland

Continued from page 41

befriended him on line. They told me that he was very funny, entertaining, and a creative writer. He shared how unhappy he was to be gay and the difficulties he faced as a closeted gay youth at school. Of course, I am touched to know that others tried to help him and offered him friendship and support.

I am sure that he was also looking for romance on line. Being closeted restricted him from the normal adolescent experience of dating and romance. On line has many youth in the same predicament but unfortunately it also has sexual predators posing as innocent youth. By running away to Chicago, he was

expecting to connect with someone who loved him and was offering him an escape from his pain and isolation. Fortunately, he realized the danger before he arrived. He also had another encounter with a sexual predator from Pennsylvania. The man sent him a gay porno videotape and asked him to send him a video of him naked in return. I found the movie the man had sent and the envelope he had sent it in. Robbie had no intention of doing as the man asked but was fearful that the man would come after him because he had our address. Robbie's father informed the local FBI office and police of this man's address and actions. It turned out that this individual was a high school guidance counselor.

Another negative aspect of the Internet is that it exposes gay youth to hard-core pornography and unhealthy views of the gay community. It gives the impression that being gay is all

about sex. Adolescence is a time of raging hormones so gay youth can't help but be curious and gravitate to on line pornography. Despite the dangers that Robbie encountered, I still believe that the Internet is a wonderful resource for gay youth. Obviously, parents should closely monitor and supervise their children on line and put a block on pornography sites. Educating them about the dangers as well as the variety of resources the Internet offers is paramount. It is important to establish an ongoing dialogue with your child about the Internet. Of course monitoring a gay youth that is not out to his/her family will inhibit him/her from going to gay websites, for fear of discovery by his/her family. I regret that I prohibited Robbie from the one place that he did not have to be closeted, where people accepted him for who he was, and shared his pain and struggle.

The irony of all this is that I now

depend on the Internet to keep current on gay news and connect with other activists. Several newspaper articles about Robbie's struggle are posted at various websites.

I am sure that Robbie is touched that his story is on the medium, which he so loved. Now others like him might read it and see hope, knowing that they are not alone in their struggle and try to get help instead of giving up on life like Robbie did. I am thankful that the Internet was there for Robbie in many positive ways, but I am especially thankful because without the Internet we never would have found out that Robbie was gay. The thought that he might have died without us ever having the chance to reassure him of our love, support, and acceptance of his homosexuality would have been even harder for me to live with.

By Robbie's Mom

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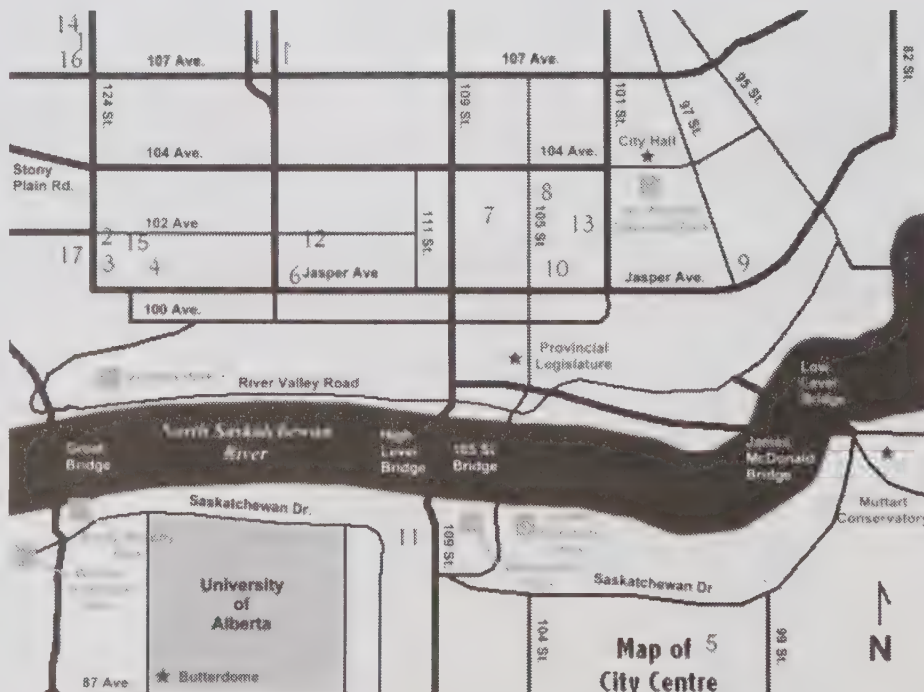
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### Books

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Edmonton, Alberta  
(780) 423-7633  
www.OrlandoBooks.com

### Travel

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## just friends

Box 2719: I'm putting my ad in this category because I'm looking for a friend. I don't need a friend, but a lover, a passionate lover. I'm 5'11", brown hair, fair skin, nice bum, toned, very cute. I am 23 years old. I'm a student.

Box 2792: I'm good-looking, clean, discreet, fit, bisexual bottom from the Fort St. John/B.C. area. I'm looking for a well-endowed top. I love to give head. Anybody from around that area, anybody visiting.

Box 2823: This is David, I'm a 44 year old gay male looking for a 32 year old gay male to have fun. I like to travel, go out for dinner. Hairy chest, hairy legs, 7" cock. I've got brownish-gray hair, brown eyes, 172lb, slim, and like to have fun. Like to get spanked, get whipped, tied up and I like to lick your cock, lick your ass, lick your balls, kiss your feet. I like tall guys. I like to travel and have fun. I like to go to Calgary.

## long term relationships

Box 2208: I'm a very attractive, professional, 40 year old, gay male with a wide variety of interests. I'd like to meet another guy from 35-40, attractive, lots of interests. You must be employed, active, independent, and willing to work at establishing and maintaining a longterm relationship. I'm not looking for a clone of myself, but someone who can expose me to new ideas and activities. Passion and romance are a must. I will answer all replies.

Box 2526: I'm a 40 year old, Oriental professional gay male. Yes, I may have an accent, but I'm very articulate and have a

lot to offer. I have a university degree from U of A, a full-time career. I know how to use my time wisely, so I can give all my attention to that special someone who wants to become the centre of attention in my life. I believe in the idea of a monogamous relationship, but that doesn't necessarily mean that we can't socialize with other friends. I'm good-looking, financially and emotionally stable, and very, very skilled in gay lovemaking. I'm also compassionate, romantic, caring, loving, generous, very understanding, and most of all I enjoy life to the fullest. Hope to hear from you soon.

Box 2532: Check out my other ad, box 1952 for more information. I'm 22, gay Asian male, good-looking, 6'2", 180lb, have a lot to offer and yet I'm still alone. It could be that I'm not out, and that I've never been on a proper date, so I don't know exactly what I want in a guy. I've been doing the casual sex thing, and that hasn't helped me much in understanding myself. So, yes I have issues, but who doesn't? I don't carry it around whining and bitching. I'm a very positive person and hide these things very well. After all, I'm still in the closet, maybe that's a problem that I've built this stonewall around my emotions too well, that I am in dire need of finding people to help me tear it down to understand me fully and completely, and to love me as I am. Yes, I have a lot going for me externally, but that's just the pretty packaging - once you take it home, some assembly is required. I guess I'm just hoping that somebody out there with the qualities I seek is willing to take a chance on me.

Box 2573: This is Chad, I'm a 24 year old gay white male living in Saskatoon. I've tried ads here in Saskatoon, papers and

ads in newspapers, and I've had no luck. I would like to move to the Alberta area to further my education. I'm 24, 6', 165lb, dark hair, blue eyes. I'm interested in an older gentleman, 29-45, and hopefully to meet somebody that's caring, honest, kind, loyal and likes to have a lot of fun.

## casual encounters

Box 2131: Bi, attached, 32 year old male, 6', brown hair, blue eyes, 220lb, slightly stocky build, not too bad though. Looking to get together with other guys discreetly during the day, on occasion. I enjoy oral, anal, giving and receiving. You're just looking to get off.

Box 2252: Good-looking, dark hair, brown eyes, 5'10", 150lb, nice body, nice pees. Looking for somebody to have fun. I love body contact, kissing, licking. I have a smooth body, and am very horny.

Box 2343: I'm 26 year old male calling from Fort McMurray looking for well-endowed, older tops, 6', 140lb, brown hair, blue eyes, submissive bottom. Looking for well-endowed older tops for bareback.

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Box 2374: I visit the city quite frequently and seeing if there are any guys 18-25, with big cocks, who have nice skin colour, and just like to sit around, cuddle, kiss and just do some other kind of stuff. I'm 5'9"-5'10", brown hair, brown eyes, 7-1/2" to 8" uncult, nice build, nice tan with bikini tan lines. I'm into talking over the phone.

Box 2446: I'm looking for a Black or Latin uncult, well-endowed, top guy, up to 50 years old who's in good physical shape. I'm 40 years old but look like I'm 30, 5'5", and uncult.

Box 2450: I'm 18, 130lb, 5'6", black hair, brown eyes, open-minded, adventurous, in good shape, slim. Looking for someone to hang out with, friends or more, someone around my age preferably.

Box 2508: This is Ethan, just on here looking to have some fun, checking to

see who's all out there. I'm 6'1" - 6'2", short dark brown hair with blond streaks, dark green eyes, and 180-190lb.

Box 2548: Horny, older gentleman, well-hung, 8-1/2" cut, very clean, very discreet. Always looking for younger males. I'm really good-looking, light brown hair, brown eyes, clean-shaven, well-built, 5'11", 189lb, muscular. Love oral sex, sucking, getting fucked, masturbating, getting masturbated, etc.

## leather & SM

Box 2184: Aggressive and demanding top. Into bondage, discipline, ass fucking, training sessions, dildos, any submissive and willing guys out there who would like to get into this and more. 5'9", 172lb. Solid, smooth, tan, brown hair, blue eyes, very well built and demanding.

Box 2191: I need your help. Please listen carefully with an open mind. I am a submissive male in his 40's approximately 6'1", 225lb, who is ready to cross the line and turn his bi-curious, domination and submission, bondage and discipline, pain and pleasure fantasies into reality. If you are single or a couple, male or female, or both, TV's are most welcome and are more than willing to play and experiment with me within the strictest confines of a safe, sane and consensual manner and domain, then we need to meet. Discretion by all parties concerned is a must.

Box 2296: I'm 40, white male, average looks, build, seeks older men, 50, 60+ to put me on my knees and make me suck your cock. Reciprocal is not required.

Box 2625: I'm Dave, 22, blue eyes, brown hair, like sucking cock, tanned, toned, physically fit, very out going, and very open minded.

## bears, big men & their admirers

Box 2692: I'm a slim male, 185lb. I really love chubby men who are well over 300lb. I would love to be cuddling with you, holding you in my arms and make all your dreams come true. Whatever dreams you can think of, I'll be there for you. Chubby men should be put on pedestals and let other men pray to them. I find chubby men sexy, handsome, they turn me on. I love

chubby men. If you are 300lb or more, I would love to be your slave and put a smile on your face every night for the rest of your life.

Box 2785: I'm an early 30s gay white male living in the Whiteford area. Looking for other gay males to meet up with and possibly more.

## transgender

Box 2207: I'm Scott, 34, bi-curious male, 5'2", 110lb. Looking for my first experience, preferably with a TV or transsexual, that's always been my fantasy.

Box 2321: I'm Bob, a single 35 year old bi guy. Looking to meet transsexuals, transvestites, passable cross-dressers for some casual, erotic encounters. I'm not very experienced, but I'm willing to learn. I can entertain or travel.

Box 2336: Panties, just the mention of that word makes me feel so erotic, exotic and sensual. I close my eyes and imagine the waist band being pulled back and feeling your soft, sensual warm hands sliding inside. I imagine your hand moving under the waist band feeling my warm, tender, sexy little bottom. I'm young, very cute, affectionate, slim, smooth, petite body, great legs and a cute, hot, sexy little bum. Looking for party admirers like myself.

Box 2533: I'm a 19 year old male, and I'm just looking for any transvestites or crossdressers, that would like to teach me and show me the ropes. I'm really interested and I would make a real sexy girl.

Box 2540: I'm 25, 6', 190lb, I want to put on my girlfriends underwear and come to your place and see where it goes. I'm very open-minded and looking for some fun.

Box 2557: I'm Siren, I'm a 25 year old, submissive transvestite, looking for others kind of like me who would like to get-together, dress-up, go out, and have a good time.

Box 2666: I'm Steve here, 34, 6'1", 180lb, very tight, toned, blond hair, blond moustache, attractive. I don't know what else to tell you. I also look really good in

a pair of tight jeans, from the front or the back. I'm looking for an adventurous and open-minded ladies out there, who would like to spend some time together. I'm in town for a day or two and looking to party. If any of you can help me out, and tell me where I can go to make new friends, I'm looking for interesting bars where I can meet interesting people. If you can help me out, I'd really appreciate it, and if you want to talk to me, then give me a call back, and we'll see what we can do.

Box 2700: I'm 26 year old, bi male, in Jasper, looking for any TS or TV's that travel up to Jasper, or I'm usually in Edmonton twice, or two or three times a month. I can meet you there.

Box 2748: I'm a sexy 29 year old. I've got short dark hair, bedroom green eyes, long lashes, nice lips, 6-1/2" cut cock. I like wearing panties, lingerie, I'm heavy on the top, and enjoy receiving bottom. If there's anyone who wants to have fun and enjoy crossdressing with me, let me know.

## bisexuals

Box 2250: I'm a male, that's 6'2", about 180lb, I'm pretty fit, I really enjoy sex. I'm bisexual, I'm part of a bisexual male/female couple. We enjoy threesome greatly, and we really like to please and be pleased. If you're a submissive male, between 20-30, slim, attractive, and really enjoy getting off with couples, we want to talk to you.

Box 2545: I'm 43 year old, bi white male, very hot, very horny, 5'4", 210lb, 6" cut. I'd like to meet up with a transvestite, very passable, for casual encounters on an ongoing basis. I'm very passionate, I love oral, receiving and giving. I also would like to join a bisexual couple, if they're out there. Both male and female must be bisexual, and enjoy oral, giving and receiving.

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